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THE ROYAL SOCIETY
ANTHROPOLOGY

VOYAGE ROUND
THE WORLD IN
1740. L ANSON
1760.

1607/2298.



LORD ANSON'S
VOYAGE
ROUND

The World ;

Performed in the Years 1740, 41,
42, 43, and 44.

CONTAINING

A SERIES of the most Entertaining and
Surprizing ADVENTURES ;

AND

An Account of the INHABITANTS,
MANNERS, and CUSTOMS, of several remote
COUNTRIES and NATIONS.

By W. H. Dilworth, A. M.

B O S T O N, N. E.

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An ACCOUNT of the VOYAGE round
the WORLD, made in the Years
1740, 41, 42, 43, and 44, by
GEORGE, Lord ANSON.

CHAP. I.

Mr. Anson made commodore of a small Squadron ; sails from St. Helen's ; arrives at Madera ; a short description of that island ; a Spanish fleet sent to the West-Indies to oppose him ; its melancholly fate ; the bravery of the Indian Orellana and his unhappy followers.

IT is needless to detain the reader with an account of the various delays Mr. Anson met with from several quarters, after his being named as commander in chief of a secret expedition, in the year 1739 to the 10th of August 1740, when he sailed, in company with several men of war and many outward-bound merchantmen, from Spithead to St. Helen's. Here he waited more than forty days for a wind, and at length weighed anchor on the 18th of September ; and tho' it still continued westerly, consequently unfavourable, he cleared the Channel in four days.

Mr. Anson's Squadron consisted of five ships, viz. the Centurion, of sixty guns and four hundred men, on board which was the commodore himself ; the Gloucester, Richard Norris, commander, carrying fifty guns and three hundred men ; the Severn, commanded by the honourable Edward Legg, having the same complement of men and guns ; the Pearl, capt. Matthew Mitchel, with forty guns and two hundred and fifty men ; the Wager, capt. Kidd, with twenty-eight guns and

Lord ANSON's VOYAGE

and one hundred and sixty men ; and the Trial sloop, eight guns and one hundred men, under the command of the honourable George Murray ; and two victuallers the Anna and Industry, pinks ; the latter of which having fulfilled her charty-party was unladed at sea, on the 16th of November, and her cargo divided among the other vessels. She was bound to Barbadoes ; in return from which island to Great Britain with a valuable lading, she was taken by the Spaniards.

On board this Squadron, which was destined to cruize upon the Spaniards in the South Seas, it had first been proposed to embark three independent companies, of one hundred men each, colonel Bland, with his own regiment, as commander in chief of the land officers ; but how this appointment came to dwindle into four hundred and seventy invalids draughted from Chelsea, and commanded by lieutenant-colonel Chrachero-de, is too nice a matter for us to investiage ; let it suffice that we observe most of them were old and infirm, much fitter for the hospital from whence it was their misfortune to be selected, than for an Expedition, to surmount the evident perils of which required youth, strength, and sound constitution. September the 20th, having parted in their appointed latitudes, the different vessels, with convoying which he had been clogg'd, Mr. Anson made the best of his way for Madera, in the road of which island he came to anchor, October the 25th, in forty fathom water, the Brazenhead bearing from him east and by east, and the great church north-north-east.

The climate of Madera is extremely healthful, temperate and pleasant. It lies in north latitude thirty-two degrees and seventeen minutes, running due east and west, being a continued ridge of very high land, the southern declivity whereof is beautifully interspersed with country seats belonging to merchants, and covered with vineyards, the produce of which is a wine in universal estimation, as well for its fine flavour as its many good qualities.

Fonchiale is the only town on this island : it is seated on the south part of it, at the bottom of a large bay, and is defended by a high wall and a battery of cannon, besides a fortified castle standing on the Loo, a rock rising above the water not far from shore. The landing-place being a stony beach over which the surf almost perpetually dashes with great violence, the commander, not daring to venture his own, made use of Portuguese boats to bring water, provisions, and other necessaries, on board



his little fleet. Here he learned from the governor that 7 or eight ships, supposed to be enemies, had passed by to the westward a few days before his arrival; of which Squadron he could obtain no farther intelligence, tho' he dispatched an officer in a clean sloop eight leagues to the westward to look after them, who returned without having seen them.

There was great reason to suspect that these ships, apprized of Mr. Anson's designs, were dispatched to the Spanish settlements, to prepare them for his reception; and that these suspicions were but too well grounded, appeared from the people of Panama, long before his arrival in those seas, being able to describe both his strength and destination; and the Spanish commodore having so exactly imitated Mr. Anson's broad pendant, that the captain of the Pearl gave into the decoy without perceiving his mistake till within gun-shot.

Before we proceed in our review of Mr. Anson's progress after he left Madera, a short account of the melancholy catastrophe of these Spanish ships may not prove perhaps disagreeable to the majority of our readers; the winds and waves having seemed to unite in their overthrow, without the assistance of any other enemy.

This Squadron, consisting of five ships, viz. the *Asia*, of sixty guns and seven hundred men, on board whereof sailed the admiral Don Joseph Pizarro: the *Guiposcoa*, of seventy-four guns and seven hundred men; the *Hermiona*, of fifty-four guns and five hundred men; the *Esperanza*, of fifty guns and four hundred and fifty men; the *St. Estevan* of forty guns and three hundred men; and a tender, mounting twenty guns, having on board their full complement of sailors and mariners, besides an old regiment of foot to reinforce the garrisons in the South Seas, arrived in the bay of Maldonado, in the river Plate, on the 26th of October, intending there to take in provisions, having stocked themselves in Old Spain with barely a four months supply: yet with this small, and almost exhausted, force did he again put to sea, and endeavour to double Cape Horn, upon being apprized privately of the English Squadron's arrival at St. Catherine's; his intention being, if possible, to get into the South Seas first. Many advantages were allowed to the common men to inspire them to do their duty well, and enable them to bear the fatigues and perils that openly threatened them in an undertaking so hazardous, precipitate, and we may even

even say imprudent, as the provisions which were expected, arrived from Buenos Ayres at Maldonado the day after he weighed anchor, and the want of them encreased the calamities he afterwards underwent, to an incredible degree. The last day of February the Guiposcoa, the Hermiona, and the Esperanza were separated from the rest of the fleet, and they were all forced to bear away for the river Plate, by a prodigious storm at north-west, which, in spite of their utmost efforts, drove them to the eastward.

The calamities they suffered are almost incredible; a rat on board the Asia sold for four dollars, and one of the sailors endured to lie four days in the same hammock with the dead corpse of his brother, that he might receive his allowance, while a conspiracy was set on foot by the marines, to murder all the officers and sailors, from no other motive but that of engrossing to themselves the ship's provisions. This design was indeed happily discovered, and the number of craving mouths lessened by the deaths of the ringleaders of it; besides which commotion, so much was their distress encreased by sickness and fatigue, that when this vessel came to anchor at Monte Vedio, in the river Plate, which place she did not reach till the middle of May, she had lost more than half her crew. The fate of the Estevan was as bad; that of the Esperanza was still worse; for out of a crew of four hundred men only fifty-eight survived, and the whole regiment of foot, fifty men excepted, perished. As for the Guiposcoa, after a long time driving on the surface of the water, as a meer wreck, without either mast or rigging, the butt-ends of her planks started, her bolts drawn, her seams all open, and only kept together by six turns of cable rope tightened round her, the surviving crew, to the number of four hundred, run her a-shore at Rio de Patas, on the coast of Brazil, ten leagues to the southward of St. Catherine, ashore, ashore, being the general cry the moment they came near land, where she soon sunk with all her rich goods and furniture. As for the Hermiona, neither she, nor any of the hands, have been since heard of; so that it is reasonably supposed she perished at sea. As for the twenty gun tender, she had been broken up before they set out from Maldonado.

The series of Pizarro's evils were not yet at an end; for in the year 1743, coming over land from Chili to Buenos Ayres, with one of his officers who had commanded the Guiposcoa,

they found the shattered Asia, lying still at Monte Vedio, with which, having refitted her in the best manner possible, they thought to proceed to Europe ; but not having above one hundred of their old hands to navigate her, they supplied the want by pressing several of the inhabitants of Buenos Ayres ; and moreover putting on board her a few English prisoners, several Portuguese smugglers, and some of the country Indians, among whom were Orellana, and ten of his followers. He was chief of a powerful tribe, who had lately given great disturbance to the peace of Buenos Ayres ; and these had not long before been surprized and made prisoners by a party of Spanish horse.

With this motley crew they set sail about the beginning of November, and the officers shewed very little policy, as well as small share of commiseration, in their behaviour to the prisoners, treating them all, English as well as Indian, with great barbarity ; while Orellana, tho' to appearance patient in all his sufferings, together with his people, meditated a severe revenge upon his oppressors : he endeavoured to cultivate an intimacy with such of the English as spoke Spanish, a language in which he was well versed ; and it is not unlikely but he would have disclosed his scheme to them, knowing them to be enemies to the Spaniards as well as himself, had he found them of inclinations equally vindictive ; but being disappointed in this expectation, he proceeded only with his ten faithful followers, on whose courage and resolution he entirely relied ; and the following accident precipitated his design.

Orellana having one day refused to go aloft, a task to which he was quite unequal, was therefore by one of the officers, remarkable for nothing so much as his brutality, knocked down, and beaten in such a violent manner that he lay bleeding upon deck for more than two hours, so stupified with his wounds that he was scarcely able to stir ; wherefore, about nine in the evening, a day or two after this ill usage, which sharpened his desire of revenge, when the principal officers were enjoying the cool air on the quarter-deck, the fore-castle was manned with only the customary watch, and the waist was filled with live cattle, he, together with his followers, came upon the quarter-deck, having armed themselves with sharp Dutch knives, which, being used at meals on board, were easily procured, and with slings made of thongs of ram hides, to the ends whereof were fastened the double-headed shot of the small quarter-deck guns.

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As they approached the great cabin-door, being ordered by the boatswain, not without a severe reprimand for their encroachment, to withdraw, four of them drew off on each side towards the gangway, and the other six, with their chief, affected to retire slowly; instead whereof, as soon as Orellana saw the gangways possessed by his detached parties, he set up the war cry, a sound perhaps the most terrifying that ever was heard, by clapping his hand hollow to his mouth; upon which they all drew their knives, and brandished their slings so successfully, that they laid at least twenty Spaniards dead at their feet, and disabled above twenty more.

The confusion that this massacre spread among the ship's crew is not to be described; most of the principal officers in the beginning pushed into the great cabin, where they extinguished the light and barricaded the door, while some threw themselves into the waist among the cattle; numbers hid themselves in the shrouds, and many who strove to gain the gangways fell by the knives of the four Indians who guarded them. Orellana having entirely cleared the quarter-deck, broke open the chest of arms, which had been removed thither a few days before on a slight suspicion of mutiny, but to his great disappointment found nothing but fire-arms; had he had the presence of mind to have removed these, he would have come at the cutlasses of which he was in search, wherewith he intended to have forced the great cabin, for the cutlass is a weapon in the use of which the Indians are well skilled.

In the mean time Pizarro and his officers began to come at a true knowledge of the state of affairs, by conversing with each other thro' the port-holes and windows; and understanding the English, whom they had much feared, were not concerned in the mutiny, resolved to attack the Indians before any other of the malecontents should recover their surprize and join them; for which purpose, ammunition being lowered to them in a bucket from the powder-room, they loaded their pistols, having no other arms, and then venturing to set the cabin door a little open, they fired among the Indians, and Mindinuetta, who had commanded the Guiposcoa, having the good fortune to shoot Orellana dead on the spot, his companions, disdaining to survive their gallant chief, leaped instantly overboard, and every man of them perished in the sea.

Thus after the vessel had been more than two hours in possession

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sion of this brave Indian, did Pizarro once again regain the command of it, and arrived safely therewith on the coast of Galicia, in 1746, after having been absent from Europe near five years; and by his assiduity in watching the motions of Mr. Anson, having occasioned the destruction of four fine ships of war and a tender, besides curtailing the naval power of Spain of more than three thousand able hands; a loss not easily to be repaired, and which it is plain would have sufficiently atoned for the equipment of Mr. Anson's Squadron, independent of every other advantage, if we reflect upon the weakness of the marine power of Spain at that time.

CHAP. II.

The Squadron arrives at the island of St. Catherine; The conduct of the governor set forth; that island described, and a short review of Brazile; they proceed to Port St. Julian; that port and the country described; Mr. Anson's vast distresses in doubling Cape Horn; he makes the island of Juan Fernandes.

AT the time that we diverted our attention to the fate of the Spanish Squadron, commanded by Don Joseph Pizarro, we left Mr. Anson at anchor in the road of Madera, from which place he departed on the 3d of November, intending for St. Jago, one of the Cape de Verd islands; but this resolution he altered the next day, on account of the advancement of the season, and steered for St. Catherine's, an island on the coast of Brazile; the land whereof, extending from west to west south-west, and appearing high and mountainous about seventeen leagues distant, they discovered on the 16th of December, and on the 18th dropped anchor in 12 fathom water, muddy ground; the north-west point of the island bearing south south-west. To prevent the confusion which the arrival of this Squadron seemed to create, by the forts firing their guns and hoisting their colours, the commodore dispatched an officer to compliment the governor, and desire a pilot to bring him into the road; a request

quest that was immediately complied with very civilly; and on Sunday the 21st they were brought up past the castle of Santa Cruz, which they saluted with eleven guns, and had an equal compliment returned them.

This island has been celebrated by other navigators for the wholesomeness of the air, the plenty of refreshments which it yields, and the hospitality of the natives; the direct contrary of all which assertions Mr. Anson experienced to be true. That gentleman's first care was to order all the sick ashore into tents pitched for them: their number amounted to 80 on board the Centurion, nor were the infirm on board the other ships proportionably less: yet the land air was of so very little advantage to them that before they left the place the aforementioned vessel buried twenty-eight of her hands, and carried away ninety-six in a very weak diseased condition, their principal disorder being calentures, which they had contracted in their run from Madera, occasioned perhaps by the warmth of the climate, and the offensive smell that must consequentially reign among such a number of men. The proportionable loss of the other ships did not fall very short of that of the Centurion.

They next proceeded to cleanse each vessel thoroughly, by smoking her decks and washing them well with vinegar; after which operation they examined and payed her bottom, and likewise secured her masts and her rigging, the better to prepare her for a voyage round Cape Horn, the dangers of which were so evident to the commodore, that he appointed the different places of rendezvous, the first whereof to be Port St. Julian, where they were to be stationed for ten days, and take in salt; the second the island Nostre Senora del Secoro, where they were to ply off and on from five to twelve leagues distant, till their wood and water was consumed; and then they were to proceed to Juan Fernandes to take in a fresh supply; and there, if they should chance to hear nothing of their commodore, he ordered that the senior officer should take upon him the principal command, giving him, Mr. Anson, up for lost; and having cruized as long in those seas as he could find a subsistence, he was to make the best of his way to Macao, and from thence stretch over to England with all possible expedition.

They set sail from this island January the 18th, having taken in their wood and water with a sufficient quantity of fresh provisions for which the governor Don Jose Sylva de Paz took care they

they should pay extravagantly dear: nor was this the worst part of his conduct; for it was thro' his means intelligence of the strength of Mr. Anson's Squadron was so well known at Buenos Ayres; and a person of less prudence than Mr. Anson appeared, would have quarreled with him, as many parts of his behaviour were calculated entirely for that end: and if he did not succeed therein, we must attribute it to the commodore's preferring the public good to the gratification of private animosity. Nor need we be surprized that this gentleman, tho' a man of quality, and a brigadier in the army, behaved himself in this case so very badly when we consider that he carried on a smuggling trade with the neighbouring Spaniards, exchanging gold for silver, whereby the kings of Spain and Portugal were both defrauded of their fifths; and had any vessel engaged in this illegal commerce fallen into the hands of the commodore, his private dealings had inevitably been discovered; for which reason it is plain he could be no friend to the English Squadron.

The island of St. Catherine lies close to the continent of Brazil, between twenty-seven and twenty-eight degrees south latitude: it is high land, about nine leagues long and two broad; the soil over-run with wood, and so entangled with thorns, briar, and underwood, as to be almost impenetrable. Here are plenty of pine-apples, lemons, oranges, citron, peaches, grapes, apricots, and plantains; and the air is odoriferously perfumed by the vast quantities of aromatic trees and shrubs, of a spontaneous growth, which are seen on every hand to flourish. Onions and potatoes thrive here well, and are of great use to shipping; but not much can be said in praise of the black cattle, which are small, somewhat like buffaloes in shape, but of an indifferent taste, owing perhaps to their feeding chiefly on wild calabashes; nor are the pheasants of St. Catherine over good; but then the fish, which abounds on every side of the island, is excellent; nor is the flesh of its parrots and monkeys to be despised. The water of this island, like that of the Thames, is well calculated for keeping at sea; having, after being cask'd up a day or two, a green scum upon its surface, which soon after subsides, and sinking to the bottom leaves the water clear and very sweet. There is good anchorage and convenience for wood and water on the continent side, at a place called by the French, Bon port. But Mr. Anson found a good anchorage, with store of wood and water, &c. at a plantation on the

the opposite side. It must be obvious to the slightest consideration, that the climate cannot be very healthful, the free circulation of the air being prevented by surrounding hills and thick woods on every side, which are cleared in very few places, for plantations. The constant circulation of vapour, which is very great, covers the whole country every morning with a thick fog, till it is either dissipated by the sea breeze or meridian heat of the sun. Hence comes it that the place is so close and humid as to occasion severe fevers and very violent fluxes; besides which disadvantages, the swarms of musketoos and sand-flies, the latter of which are scarcely discernable, and bite like bugs, render this island a very disagreeable habitation.

St. Catherine's was, till within these few years, a retreat for the outlaws of Brazile, who lived here very much at ease under the care of a sort of a captain, who in some measure acknowledged the Portuguese jurisdiction. In this happy asylum they forgot the use of money, having plenty of almost every thing needful within themselves, cloaths excepted, wherewith they were supplied by such ships as touched here, which in return they stored with provisions. However, things here wore now a different aspect; the governor no longer is seen to traverse the island barefooted, with such a garment thrown over him as manifests its being made for use and not for show; while a naked, but contented, banditti follow at his heels: his appearance now is splendid, but he has a garrison of ragged soldiers under his command. The occasion of this alteration is, that great riches are thought to be intermixed with the sands of the neighbouring rivers, and that the harbour before-mentioned is the most capacious and secure upon the coast; so that it is not impossible but that it may, in time, become one of the most considerable settlements in South America.

Whoever considers, that it is not much more than forty years, since Brazile was discovered to possess those quantities of treasure, which have so enriched the crown of Portugal, will not be in the least surprized should they find this expectation verified. Thro' the whole country of Brazile, at the depth of twenty-four feet from the surface, there is said to run a thin vein of gold, the particles whereof are carried by the springs and heavy rains into the contiguous streams, from the sands of which they are gathered by the negroes employed for that purpose;
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they being obliged, one day with another, to furnish their masters with one eighth of an ounce of gold clay, about nine shillings sterling in value; and whatever surplus they obtain, is, by a fixed law, their own: so that it sometimes chanced, when they hit upon a wealthy stream, that they purchase slaves themselves, and live in great splendour. The king of Portugal's fifths of the gold yearly exported from Brazile to Lisbon, is said to amount to three hundred thousand pounds, the capital whereof is a million and a half.

Diamonds are also the natural produce of this country, and are found, as well as the gold, in the beds of rivers, in such abundance, that to prevent their growing too plenty, the king of Portugal has lately established a diamond company, in which a certain property of all the diamonds found in Brazile is vested, and which is restricted to the use of but eight hundred slaves in searching for them. This was a very necessary caution, for it is very likely there are immense quantities of these valuable gems among the rocks of chrystal that are scattered thro' the mountains of the country, whence they are washed by the torrents into the rivers from which they are taken; but then it is to be observed, that it requires more than ordinary skill to discover a diamond, in the rough coat that obscures its lustre, before it passes thro' the hand of the polisher.

It is not above twenty years since this precious commodity was discovered here; and before there was a certain confirmation of their value, one of the governors is said to have acquired a vast fortune by collecting several of the stones, which he kept by him as counters; while many Portuguese, still living, remember with great regret their having flung away some of these apparent pebbles, which were of prodigious value. Many of the diamonds that have been of late brought hence into Europe, are said to be in no respect whatever inferior to the very best ever known in the East-Indies.

But it is time to return to Mr. Anson's Squadron, which we observed before left St. Catherine's on the 8th of January, the third day after which, they were attacked by a violent storm, and a fog so very thick, that the fleet was therein totally dispersed; however, they all joined again the following day, the Pearl excepted, which they did not come up with till near a month after, when they were almost arrived at Port St. John, where it was absolutely necessary to make some delay to

al, which had lost her main-mast in the aforementioned storm ; it was during this time that the Pearl had like to have been taken, as was before observed, by Pizarro ; and that her commander captain Kidd died, who was succeeded by the honourable captain Murray, captain Cheap being turned over to the Wager, and the command of the Trial being by the commodore conferred upon lieutenant Charles Saunders of the Centurion, till whose recovery from a fever, under which he then laboured, Mr. Saumarez, another of the Centurion's lieutenants, was ordered to act as master and commander of the Trial.

February the 18th, the Squadron came to anchor in the bay of St. Julian on the coast of Patagonia, where the Trial was immediately put in repair, being supplied by the Wager with a spare main-top-mast, which she converted into a fore-mast ; whereby probably the vessel was preserved, with all her crew ; for her masts were before too lofty, and had they gone by the board in the violent hurricanes which she experienced in doubling Cape Horn, and where it was impossible for one ship to assist another, her loss had been inevitable.

That part of the south continent of America, which is unoccupied by the Spaniards, and extends from their settlements to the straits of Magellan, bears the name of Patagonia ; it is remarkable for being one continued chain of downs, of a light gravelly soil, covered with long coarse grass in many places, and in others quite bare : so free is this tract of land from wood of every sort, a circumstance wherein it differs from every other known part of the globe, that Sir John Narborough, who wintered here in 1670, with a view of prosecuting discoveries, says he could not pick up the handle of an hatchet. A few horses and black cattle having been imported by the Spaniards, upon their first settling at Buenos Ayres, these have thriven so prodigiously upon the herbage, and increased to that degree, that they extend in vast herds over this continent, as far as ever discoveries have been made ; being no longer considered as a private property, but taken by whoever chuses to hunt them down, great quantities of the black cattle being yearly destroyed only for their tallow, hides, and tongues ; and even the horses are said, by the Indians at least, to be excellent eating : the carcases that are left by the hunters, fall a prey to the wild dogs, which have also multiplied here exceedingly : being imported first by the Spaniards, whom perhaps they

they left, and ran wild among the cattle, upon finding subsistence so easily to be obtained; for it is plain they are of a breed not originally found in America.

Altho' thousands of these dogs assemble together, there is no fear of their diminishing the number of black cattle, which they have not the courage to attack in herds; so that they content themselves with bringing down a few stragglers, that separate from the rest, or else with the carrion left by the hunters, who follow the chase on horseback, upon beasts trained up thereto; carrying in their hands a thong of good length, with a running knot at the end of it; and of the management of this they are so much masters, that they never fail of fixing it about the horns of the beast they intend to catch, when they come to a proper distance. The beast, when he finds himself entangled, generally runs, but the horse takes care to keep pace with him, and prevents the thong from being too much strained; till a second hunter, who follows the game, throws another noose about his hinder legs, and then the horses setting different ways, the beast is soon overthrown, and each horse keeps upon the stretch, in a contrary direction, till the hunters dismount, and secure him as they think proper: much in the same manner are tygers noosed, if we can credit the assertions of some people of established reputation.

Sometimes there are two parties of Indians out together, one of which goes first to bring down the beasts, while the other follows to skin them. Though they oftener hamstring, and leave them to languish in torment, imagining their anguish will burst the lymphatic vessels, and thereby facilitate the separation of the skins, for which, in a day or two, they return. This barbarous practice has been loudly and justly condemned, particularly by the priests, whose thundering anathemas against the perpetrators of it, have not hitherto been able entirely to suppress it.

There is one peculiar disadvantage in touching upon this part of Patagonia, for which the plenty of fresh provisions will not compensate, and that is want of water, which hitherto has been found only in small quantities; that which is common being brackish and ill-tasted, occasioned perhaps by the nitrous and saline qualities of the land through which it flows; however, this inconvenience may probably be removed by irrigation. This continent abounds also with Peruvian flint:

which are extremely shy and hard to be taken. And on the eastern coast there are plenty of seals, with abundance of penguins, and variety of other sea-fowls. There are few inhabitants upon this side of the coast, which at Port St. Julian is not more than a hundred leagues over, whereas in the neighbourhood of Buenos Ayres, where the continent is near four hundred leagues broad, the natives are numerous and very troublesome to the Spaniards, being brave, active, and spirited; and in manners nearly resembling those gallant Indians of Chili, who have often set the Spanish power at defiance, and still nobly preserve their independence. They are generally excellent horsemen, and extremely expert in the use of all military weapons, fire-arms excepted, the knowledge of which the Spaniards take all possible precautions to conceal from them. It is very certain that the best step for subverting the Spanish power in America, would be to form a friendship with, and give due encouragement to, these Indians, and those of Chili. Port St. Julian is remarked by Sir John Narborough as a place producing excellent salt, and that in quantities sufficient to fill a thousand ships, especially in the month of February; however, Mr. Anson did not find this report verified: the salt which his officers found in the salt-pond being scarce and bad, occasioned perhaps by the more than ordinary wetness of the weather.

The Trial being properly refitted, which occupation had principally detained the squadron at Port St. Julian, the commodore held a council of the principal officers whose health would permit them to attend, on board the Centurion; when he informed them that his orders were to secure some port in the South-Seas, where the ships of the squadron might careen and refit, and proposed an attack upon Baldivia, the principal frontier of Chili, a proposition to which every member readily assented; in consequence whereof, new instructions were given to the captains of the squadron, importing, that in case of separation, after a ten days cruise off Nostra Senora del Secoro, they were to proceed to forty degrees thirty minutes, and to cruise for fourteen days off the harbour of Baldivia; after which space of time, if they were not joined by the other ships, they were to direct their course to Juan Fernandes, and to act according to former orders; each captain being also at the same time enjoined at his peril not to separate from the Centurion beyond the distance of two miles, without an unavoidable necessity.

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Matters being thus properly adjusted, the squadron weighed anchor, & stood out to sea on the 27th of February in the morning, when the Gloucester not being able easily to purchase her anchor, was obliged to cut her cable, and leave her best bower behind her. And on the 4th of March, the day being remarkably bright and pleasant, she had like to have been set on fire by a spark flying from the forge into some gun-powder and other combustibles, which an officer on board was preparing for the Spanish squadron, whom they were now daily in expectation of meeting; however, this accident happily produced no other effect than that of spreading an alarm among the people, which quickly subsided with the danger. March the 21st they first discovered the land of Terra del Fuego, whose aspect affords a prospect the most dreary and uncomfortable that can be imagined; it appears, without the least mixture of earth or mold, like one continued chain of inaccessible rocks terminating at a prodigious height in innumerable ragged points, clothed with eternal snow, and the hills whereon they rise seem to have been cleft asunder, as if by earthquakes; the chasms, horrible to behold, extending thro' the main substance of the rocks almost to the very bottom.

In two days after they opened Straights la Maire, thro' which, tho' seven or eight leagues long, they were hurried by a strong tide, with good weather, and a brisk gale, in about two hours; and as these are commonly reckoned the boundaries of the Atlantic and Pacific ocean, every heart began to cheer up, imagining their dangers almost at an end; and that now they were upon the point of realising those golden dreams, on which, in imagination, they had feasted so long, and in these delusive hopes they were still more indulged, by the remarkable serenity of the sky, and the calmness of the weather. But scarcely had they attained the southern extremity of the Straights, before these pleasing prospects vanished entirely; the clouds began to gather on every hand, the tide turned furiously against them, the wind shifted about to the southward, and came on in sudden squalls with such violence, that they were obliged to haul their top-sails, and reef their main-sail, while they were driven by the tide six or seven leagues to the eastward of Straights la Maire.

From this day forward, to the end of more than three months, they struggled with perils and distresses scarcely to be paralleled

ed, from a continued succession of tempestuous weather that surprized the oldest sailors on board, who unanimously confessed the most violent hurricanes they had ever seen, were but inconsiderable gales compared to what they now underwent, from short and mountainous seas; any one of which, had it chanced to break over the ship, whereof there was perpetual fear, would inevitably have sent her to the bottom.

Amidst these terrors, the ship rolled gunwale to, with motions so quick and violent, that without the men proved lucky enough to grasp some fixed body, they ran a hazard of being dashed in pieces against her deck or sides; and these concussions killed and disabled many very useful hands, these tempests were rendered still more dreadful from the manner of their approach, which was generally without the least previous notice, after a continued calm; an interval that had emboldened them to venture to make sail with the fore-top-sail set, or the courses double reefed. To augment the distresses which they occasioned, these blasts generally brought with them quantities of snow and fleet, which freezing over the sails and casing the rigging, rendered them apt to snap at the slightest pull, and besides benumbing the limbs of the sailors, often mortified their fingers and toes; so that many of them were disabled from working.

April the 1st, they encountered a storm more dreadful than any they had hitherto met, which breaking over the larboard-side of the Centurion, stove her quarter-gallery, and considerably damaged her masts and rigging; this was succeeded by another, if possible worse, on the third, wherein the Wager lost her mizen-mast and main top-sail yard, and the gammon of the bowsprit, with the fore-stay of the Anna pink were broke, as well as all her masts near coming by the board.

It being now the 13th of April, they all expected by their reckoning in a few days to have enjoyed some ease in the Pacific ocean; when the hazy weather clearing up a little, & the moon shining out on a sudden, the Anna made a signal of seeing land right ahead: it being then not more than two miles distance, had not the wind luckily shifted to west-north-west, whereby they were enabled to stand over to the southward, whereas just before it blew in squalls from the south-west, they had surely been lost upon this shore, which they concluded was that part of Terra del Fuego, called by Frezier, in his chart of Magellan's Straights, Cape Noir. It was strange indeed how the
current

currents should have driven them so strongly to the eastward; for the whole Squadron esteemed themselves upwards of 10 degrees more westerly than this island; so that when they imagined they had ran down nineteen degrees longitude, they had not in reality advanced half that distance. After the mortifying disappointment of falling in with the coast of Terra del Fuego, they stood away to the south-west, with the weather pretty favourable, till April the 24th; in the evening of which, the wind increased from a fresh gale to a prodigious storm, and the weather was so very thick, that the whole Squadron separated; nor did they meet again till they reached Juan Fernandez. In the mean time to add to their other disasters, the scurvy began to make such a progress among them, that on board the Centurion only, it carried off forty-three men in the month of April, and double that number in May.

The many different shapes in which this destructive disorder, so commonly felt upon long voyages, attacks the human body, are as strange and unaccountable as its symptoms are various and inconstant; it is generally attended with swelled legs, putrid gums, strange dejection of spirits, shiverings and tremblings, with a disposition to be seized with unaccountable terrors upon the slightest accident; it opened the wounds of an old marine in such a manner as if they had never been healed, tho' they had been fifty years closed; where a leg had been formerly broken and afterwards consolidated, it dissolved the calosity of the bone, & the fracture appeared as if it had never been cured. Again, some of the sailors, who, tho' confined to their hammocks, discoursed with a loud strong tone of voice, having good stomachs, and a chearful disposition, were found dead upon an attempt made to move them to a different quarter; and others, who confided in imaginary strength, have left their hammocks, resolving to go upon deck, have expired in the way; while upon deck itself, nothing was more common than to see the men drop dead upon a violent effort of duty.

However, having now weathered Cape Horn, and the inhospitable rocks of Terra del Fuego, they indulged themselves with hoping to find a cessation of their trouble in the Pacific Ocean. But even here they were deceived; for on the 8th of May they arrived off the island of Secoro, in which station they cruised for several days, in hope of being joined by some of the scattered ships, but to no purpose; nor was this disappointment

ment their only uneasiness, for they were utterly ignorant of the coast, which wore a most rugged appearance, & whereon they feared daily being driven by the westerly winds which blow here almost constantly; and their escaping being wrecked upon it, is next to a miracle.

The squalls of wind were generally very severe, accompanied with light showers of rain, loud claps of thunder, and flashes of lightning, one of which, in sweeping over the deck, went off like the explosion of a pistol, leaving behind it a sulphureous smell, and wounding several men and officers by whom it passed. It would swell this narrative to an huge volume, should we pretend to enumerate the disasters, fatigues, and terrors which they sustained even upon this coast, till the 24th of May; when they were once more assailed by a tempest, more terrible than any they had hitherto undergone, for now the elements seemed absolutely to have conspired to their destruction; almost all their sails were split, their rigging destroyed, and a mountainous wave breaking over them on the larboard quarter, shifted their ballast and stores; so that the vessel heaved two streaks to port, while her masts were every instant expected to come by the board.

However, the wind abating, they began to exert themselves in stirring up their shrouds, reeving new lanyards, and mending their sails; during which operation they were driving ashore on the island of Chiloe; but the wind happily shifting to the southward, they steered off land with only a main-sail, there being no body left to manage the helm but the master and the reverend Mr. Walter the commodore's chaplain; the rest being all busied in securing the masts and bending the sails. This was the last stormy weather they met with hereabouts, for that day they got clear of the land; and after a fortnight's cruize, without any of the other ships coming up, the weather being pretty moderate, they bore away for Juan Fernandes, it being the only chance left them to avoid perishing at sea, and the most probable place they could think of whereat to refit and recover the sick; for tho' Baldivia had been the appointed rendezvous, it was no more thought of, the only hopes now cherished on board being that of saving the ship and the few remaining lives.

At last, after various perplexing circumstances, they gained the island on the 9th of June, in a most desponding condition,

with a scarcity of fresh water, a crew so disabled with disorders, that not more than ten men could be mustered on a watch to do duty, and even some of these lame and unable to go aloft. It were injustice to the knowledge and skill of Mr. Anson, should we omit to observe that had his directions been pursued, they would have made their desired port on the 28th of May; but his opinion was over-ruled by the majority of officers, whereby the ship continued twelve days longer at sea than she would have otherwise done; and she lost between seventy and eighty men, which had his advice been taken, might undoubtedly have been saved.

C H A P. III.

An account of the island of Juan Fernandes: of the measures pursued by Mr. Anson there: the Tryal, the Gloucester, and the Anna Pink also make this island: a short review of the various distresses they had previously endured: an account of the loss of the Wager, and the adventures of her surviving crew, till their arrival in England.

THE island of Juan Fernandes is placed by Mr. Anson in south-latitude thirty-three degrees forty-five minutes; but by Dampier in thirty-four degrees forty-five minutes, and when first discovered, appears to be surrounded with craggy, broken, precipices; but upon a nearer approach, this uncouth prospect changes into a landscape the most beautiful that can be imagined, and tho' it must be at any time pleasing to the eye, yet the delight was infinite which the few surviving sailors enjoyed from the sight of land covered with woods, interspersed with carpets of the loveliest verdure, watered with numerous streams and wanton cascades, which even at a distance refreshed and revived those who before were dying of thirst. The northern side of this island is composed of a range of craggy hills covered with aromatic trees, none whereof are of a size to yield any considerable timber; the largest among them is the myrtle, whose top grows circularly with as much uniformity as if it had been clipped by art; and the bark of it is an excrement, in taste and smell like garlic, instead whereof it was used by the people of the Centurion; but even this tree

tree will not cut to more than a length of forty feet. The pimento or cabbage-tree also grows here, but in no great plenty; and the commodore sowed plumbs, apricots and peaches, which have since thriven exceedingly; the trees cannot take any deep root, for the soil is loose, gravelly, and so shallow, that a sailor, pursuing a goat, happened to slip upon a declivity, and to save himself caught hold of a large tree which gave way and fell with him, as did another of still more considerable bulk, which he also grasped in his fall; so that he was dashed to pieces amongst the rocks. An accident of near the same nature had like to have happened to Mr. Brett.

It has been observed, that some of these hills of Juan Fernandes resemble those in Chili, the bowels of which teem with gold; & there are others of a bright red soil, more beautiful than vermilion, the uses of which perhaps it might be found to supply upon trial. Purslain, water-creffes, wild fennel, turnips, Sicilian radishes, and many other vegetables, particularly such as are the best adapted to the cure of the scurvy, abound every where on the island, whose numerous beauties must enchant every person that has a taste for simple nature's handy-work, her efforts here far surpassing the elegance of labouring art. Few parts of the globe can perhaps equal in dignity and grandure, many scenes to be met with among these hills, whose openings present to the enraptured view, vallies infinitely charming, where the shade and fragrance of the neighbouring woods, the loftiness of the over-hanging rocks, the frequent falls of the surrounding streams, and the transparency of the waters form a retreat more pleasing than poet ever fabled.

The abundance of goats which former navigators are said to have found upon this island, have been much diminished by the dogs set ashore here for that purpose by the Spaniards, to deprive the buccaneers of the advantages which they reaped from their numbers, whereby they were supplied with plenty of provisions. Among some such of these animals as fell into the hands of the Centurion's men, there were found two or three of most venerable aspect, which from having their ears slit, they supposed to have formerly belonged to Mr. Selkirk. The dogs having increased exceedingly, have made themselves masters of all the accessible parts of the island; while the few surviving goats maintain the high grounds, and secure the narrow passes by
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a constant guard. Mr. Walter, in his account of this voyage, tells us, that he saw a troop of dogs endeavouring to gain a hill, on the top whereof there was a large flock of goats; and that the leader of them followed by the rest, upon the first approach of the dogs, marched to a defile, by which only the eminence could be attained, and there posting himself, like another Leonidas defending his Thermopyle, resolutely waited the onset, which the dogs did not chuse to make; but lay down panting for breath at the distance of about twenty yards: and after having rested themselves, and reconnoitred the foe, they thought it best to march back to the destruction of some young seals, upon which food they now principally subsist, for they certainly can get but few goats; and some of them have been bold enough to attack the human species, for they are of a large daring breed.

The males of the sea-lions, which animal, during the winter, covers all the sea-coast, have furious battles about their mates; & he may be justly pronounced the best warrior among them, who is surrounded with most females. The hearts and tongues of them are most delicious food, and they are so very fat, that one of them has been known to yield a butt of oil.

The bay abounds with plenty of delicious fish, but more particularly with a sort of cray-fish, weighing eight or nine pounds a piece; and there were formerly a great number of cats here, but these have been destroyed by the dogs; as have the Pardela, a sort of bird that used to burrow in the ground. Besides the hawk, the owl, the blackbird, and the humming-bird, not many of the winged species are to be met with on this island.

We ought to have remarked before that the sea-lion, or lioness, is a creature extremely fond of its mate; and there was an instance of this in one of the latter attacking a sailor, who was carelessly skinning her companion, whom he had killed; and the beast having contrived to get the poor fellow's head in her mouth, scored it in several places with her teeth, wounding him thereby so desperately that he died in two or three days after.

The ship was no sooner brought into a safe birth upon this island, than measures were taken for erecting tents a-shore for the reception of the sick, the number of whom amounted to one hundred and sixty-seven persons, twelve or fourteen whereof died on being exposed to the fresh air. There was a necessity

fity for removing the greatest part of them, for they were quite helpless, in their hammocks, a work of considerable fatigue, in which Mr. Anson, with his usual chearfulness and humanity, as well as his officers, bore an equal part. It will not be amiss to observe, that so inveterate was this disorder which raged among them, that it did not abate of its fury in less than twenty days, after the landing of the crew, but they continued during the first ten or twelve days, to bury six or seven of their people daily; and this horrible disease seemed as if it had resolved that no force should displace it.

Previous measures being settled for the recovery of the sick; their next care was to purge and cleanse the ship thoroughly, which was become extremely loathsome; and that employment being properly ended, they proceeded with all possible expedition to lay in their wood and water; in which they made the more haste as they feared the return of Pizarro's Squadron, which it was plain, from the heaps of fresh ashes and scattered fragments of fishbones, had been lately hree, and it was impossible that Mr. Anson, should be as yet acquainted with that officer's melancholy condition; and Mr. Anson in his present circumstances, with only thirty hands to man a sixty-gun ship, was certainly not a match for any ship of force. In order to make the more dispatch, the smiths and sail-makers were set to work upon mending the chain-plates and decayed work, as well as the sails and damaged rigging.

We should have premised, that a few days after the Centurion had arrived here, the Tryal sloop appeared in sight, and was brought into harbour with the help of some men dispatched to her assistance in the long-boat by Mr. Anson, having only three men, besides captain Saunders, her commander, and her lieutenant, able to stand to the sails, having thrown thirty-four of her hands overboard in this run, and the rest being down in the scurvy.

On the 21st of June the Gloucester was discovered to the leeward, making the best of her way for the island, tho' they were not convinced of her identity till the 26th, when she appeared full in view, and the commodore straightway dispatched his long boat on board her with a supply of fresh water and vegetables, whereof she stood in prodigious need; for without this timely aid, her people had certainly expired thro' thirst, being put to the allowance of a pint of water each man per day.

and at that rate, having no more left than what would have served them twenty four hours. It was the misfortune of this vessel to continue driving off and on, till July the 23d, sometimes out of sight of the land, in the greatest distress imaginable, and the most eminent danger of foundering. These difficulties were occasioned by the winds and currents setting strongly against her : however she at last made the northwest point of the bay, with a flowing sail, and in an hour came to a safe anchor, at a time when the people on board began almost to despair of ever gaining land, or seeing an end of their calamities but in death.

These two ships, & the Anna pink, which arrived here about the middle of August, being a welcome sight, because of the provisions which she carried, were the only ships that ever joined the Squadron ; for the Severn and the Pearl, having been parted from the commodore off Cape Horn, with difficulty reached Brazile, whence they made the best of their way back to Europe. We shall speak shortly more largely of the adventures of the Wager, which ship was run a shore on a desolate island, where she was lost ; but first we shall detain the reader a few moments with a view of the adventures of the Anna before she reached this island. This vessel fell in with land in forty-five degrees fifteen minutes south latitude, at the distance of four leagues, on the 16th of May ; on the first sight of which they wore ship, and stood to the southward ; but their foretop-sail splitting, a hard gale at west south-west drove them towards the shore, which she was unable, and some say the captain was unwilling, to avoid, hoping for shelter and refreshment among the many islands then in sight. In about four hours she dropped anchor off the island of Inchin ; but neither being near enough the east shore, nor yet having a sufficiency of hands to veer away the cable briskly, they continued to drive for two days till they came within a mile of land, whereon they expected every moment to be wrecked, when on a sudden they came to the side of a small gut, which running between the island and the main, afforded excellent anchorage in smooth water, and a security against all weathers. This was a happy change for a crew which the hour before had giving themselves up for lost, without any hope of being preserved, for their boats were leaky ; and, should they chance to reach the shore, they feared falling a prey to the savage disposition which the Spanish

historians award to the natives of the climate ; and even now this terror remained with them, tho' but ill founded, as appears from their not meeting one native during their stay upon the island : the only human creature, besides themselves, that they had sight of here, being an Indian, with his wife and two young children, who came into the harbour in a perigua, having with them a dog, a cat, a fishing-net, a hatchet, a knife, a reel with worsted, a flint and steel, a cradle, some roots of a yellow hue and insipid taste, used by them instead of bread, and some barks of trees wherewith to cover their huts.

The master of the pink had them brought on board in his yawl, and detained them lest they should have discovered him to some enemy, using them with great good nature, and permitting them all the day the free use of the deck, but at night locking them up in the fore-castle ; he fed them with the same victuals that were given to the ship's crew, and sometimes indulged them with a little brandy, of which liquor they were very fond. This Indian was a man of very good natural parts, dextrous in making himself understood by signs, and to all appearance extremely kind and docile ; and after he had been a good while captive, he made his escape with his wife and family, by getting thro' the scuttle, one night that he found it unnailed, into the yawl, wherewith he rowed ashore, having first turned the long boat and his own perigua a drift, which the crew found it difficult to recover. Had this sagacity and resolution extended to a more enlarged object than that of a single family, the fame of this man had been immortalized ; and his late masters did so much justice to his merit, that they left provisions for him in places from whence they supposed he took it, as it was soon gone : and this kind office they daily repeated. His escape, however, influenced them to precipitate their departure, fearing he would discover them either to the Spaniards, or to some of the barbarous inhabitants ; of the latter particularly they were under violent apprehensions. It was on this occasion the master of the pink was persuaded to cease firing the evening gun ; a practice to which he had hitherto constantly adhered, out of an ostentatious imitation of a man of war at setting the watch ; but he was at length convinced, that concealment was his best security, and that this bravado might prove his destruction. His delay at Inchin was not long.

etc.

after this accident, for having taken in his wood and water, he made the best of his way to Juan Fernandes.

The master of the pink not having taken an exact observation, was not able to ascertain the latitude of this island; however, it seems to be one of the Chonos islands, which extends all along that coast, according to the Spanish accounts; and it is very probable that it borders upon forty-five degrees thirty minutes south latitude. Here are two good coves, where ships may conveniently heave down in secure shelter. Several streams of excellent fresh water fall into the harbour, and one of them is so luckily situated, that casks out of it standing in the long boat, may be filled with an horse. Tho' it was winter when the Anna pink was upon this island, the air was mild, and the ground covered with a beautiful verdure, yielding nettle tops, wild celery, and other refreshing vegetables: the fresh water rivers abound with excellent mullets; and cockles, and muscles of an extraordinary large size are found in great plenty upon the sea-coast; these are a food extremely delicious, as are also the geese, shags, and penguins, of which there are plenty enough farther inland.

With respect to making discoveries up the country, this could not possibly be expected from a crew of not more than sixteen or seventeen persons, ignorant of the coast, and labouring under perpetual apprehensions of being attacked by an enemy.

Having brought the Anna pink, the Tryal, and the Gloucester back to the commodore, and taken notice of the course pursued by the Pearl and Severn, it now remains for us to give some account of the Wager, and her various distresses, after being divided from the rest of the squadron off Cape Horn. The Wager was commanded by captain Cheap, who was extremely solicitous about reaching Baldivia, having on board some few field-pieces, coehorns, and other kind of military stores, besides pioneers tools; all which implements would have been much wanted in case the projected attack upon that place had been adhered to. These considerations induced the captain, in spite of the ship's distresses, to make the best of his way to the first rendezvous at Secoro, whence he intended to have steered for Baldivia, in case he missed of the squadron at the first mentioned place.

This was his determined resolution, when, on the morning of

of the 14th of May, he fell in with land in south latitude forty-seven degrees, of which exerting himself to get clear, he fell down and dislocated his shoulder, whereby he was rendered incapable of acting; and the crew not taking proper pains to work her off the coast, she struck on a sunken rock, and soon after bulged and grounded between two small islands, about a musket shot from shore. The confusion produced by this accident was inconceivably heightened by the rebellious disposition of the crew, who imagining the loss of the ship destroyed the captain's superiority, and put them all on an equal footing, fell to rifling her stores and drinking her liquors, without any attention to their calamitous condition. In this situation many of them got so drunk, that they were drowned by the water flowing into the wreck, at a time when they were incapable of retreating; a proceeding against which the captain, and some of the soberer people, had admonished them before hand to no purpose: and so far were they transported by their unaccountable frenzy, that some of those who had staid on board out of obstinacy, being afraid of the vessel's parting with the weather, which was next day very stormy, pointed a four pounder from the quarter-deck, against the hut wherein they supposed captain Cheap to be sheltered, which they fired at and very narrowly missed; and all this because the boat, which they had before rejected, did not put off to their assistance so soon as they expected, upon a signal for it being hung out; nay, so very mutinous was their disposition, that there was no possibility of husbanding such provisions as could be saved out of the wreck, or of making a proper division thereof; for there was nothing but frauds, concealments, and thefts among them, which were productive of eternal discords.

Another important point was the captain differing with almost all his people in opinion concerning the measures to be pursued in the present exigency. The common resolution of the malecontents was to lengthen the long boat, & accompanied by the other boats to steer to the southward, and passing Magellan's Straights to endeavour to gain the coast of Brazile, whence they supposed they should easily find conveyance to Great Britain. However hazardous this attempt appeared, it presented a dawning hope of their being able to reach their own country once again; which reviving circumstance outweighed every other consideration,

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The captain's design was of quite a different nature ; his intention being to fit up the boats in the best manner possible, & to proceed with them to the northward, where, as he had above one hundred men in good health, with some fire arms and ammunition, he did not fear seizing upon some Spanish vessel, as there was almost a certainty of meeting with many in the neighbourhood of Chiloe or of Baldivia ; and then he intended to proceed to Juan Fernandes, which island, it appeared probable to him could be made with the boats only, even if they should fail taking a prize. This project was always foremost in the captain's thoughts, and led him underhand, to obstruct as much as in him lay the measures of his opponents, wherewith, however, he appeared outwardly to comply. The following unhappy accident fell out in the interim, that considerably heightened their dissensions. A midshipman of the name of Cozens, who had involved himself in broils with most of the officers, and several times insulted even the captain himself, took upon him to abuse the purser close to the captain's tent, for stopping the allowance of a lazy fellow who had refused to work. The dispute was productive of high words and very scurrilous language, especially on the side of Cozens, at whose insolent behaviour the purser, growing enraged, cried out, A mutiny, a mutiny, the dog has pistols ! at the same time he fired a pistol himself, the report of which being heard by the captain, he rushed out of his tent, and not doubting but it was Cozens who had fired, shot him thro' the head instantly ; and the wound proved mortal, for it killed him at the end of fourteen days. This action, for some time, rendered the crew more submissive than before ; but about the middle of October, when the boats were almost ready to sail, the majority of them put the captain under a guard, pretending they would carry him prisoner to England, there to be tried for murder : but when they were just ready for sea, they shewed that they had never intended this measure, by setting him at liberty, and leaving to him, and the few who chose to partake of his fortune, only the yawl, to which the barge was afterwards added, because the people on board her were prevailed on to return back. Out of one hundred and thirty men that survived the wreck of the Wager, thirty died during their stay upon this island, for such in the end it proved to be, and not part of the continent, as had been first imagined.

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The number that embarked in the long boat and the cutter for the southward, were eighty, who, at their going off, gave the captain and his company, consisting of nineteen persons, three cheers: This was on the thirteenth of October, five months after the loss of the *Wager*; and on the 29th of January following, these adventurers arrived at Rio Grande, on the Brazile coast, having lost the cutter, and being reduced from eighty to thirty persons, and those in the greatest misery thro' want of food and water. The captain, and the companions of his misfortunes, were not able, through the badness of the weather, and other intervening difficulties, to fit their barge and yawl for their expedition northward, till the 1st of December; and they had scarcely been an hour at sea, before the winds blew a hurricane, and the waves ran so very high, that they were obliged to throw overboard most of the provisions they had saved from the wreck, to prevent their going to the bottom.

This hardship retarded their progress considerably, as they were thereby necessitated to make every shore they could possibly reach, to procure themselves subsistence; moreover their yawl sunk as she lay at anchor, with one of their hands on board, who was drowned; and there not being room sufficient on board the barge to stow her complement of men, they were forced to leave four marines behind them on a desolate shore. Notwithstanding this chain of disasters, they continued to push to the northward till the end of January; when, having made three unsuccessful attempts at doubling a head-land, supposed by them to be Cape Tres Montes, they put back, almost in despair, to their former birth, which they had named *Wager Island*, and came up with it in the middle of the month of February. Disheartened at their repeated disappointments, and quite worn out with hunger and fatigue, here they were seasonably relieved by several pieces of beef which had been lately washed out of the wreck, and still swam upon the water. Soon after this piece of good fortune two canoes came among them, on board one of which was a native of Chiloe, who, understanding a little Spanish, was induced by Mr. Elliot, the surgeon, who spoke the language, to consent to transport captain Cheap and his people to Chiloe; in consideration of which kindness he was to have the barge and all that belonged to her. Accordingly, on the 6th of March,
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eleven persons, to which the company was now reduced, embarked on board the barge, but after a few days voyage, six of them, with an Indian, went off in this little vessel, leaving a-shore the captain, lieutenant Hamilton of the marines, Mr. Elliot the surgeon, the honourable Mr. Byron, and Mr. Campbell, two midshipmen; who were in a most disconsolate condition, on a dreary barren coast, without provision, or the smallest means of procuring any; for their arms, their ammunition, and every little convenience of which they had been masters, were carried off in the barge. They now saw a near completion of their calamities, and nothing but a prospect of inevitable destruction, when the Indian, with whom they had bargained to convey them to Chiloe, returned with his canoe. It seems he had been out a-fishing, and left the barge in care of another Indian, whom it was very probable the sailors had forced out to sea.

This honest Indian, when he first missed the barge and his companion, concluded that he had been murdered; but being at length satisfied of the contrary, he adhered to his former promise of conveying captain Cheap and the four gentlemen along with him, to some of the Spanish settlements, promising to supply them with provisions enough all the way; for no persons are better skilled in fishing and fowling than the Indians. For these purposes he provided several of his neighbours in other canoes; with whom the captain embarked, together with his four companions, one of whom, viz. Mr. Elliot, the surgeon, died in the passage. It was the middle of March when they left the Wager island, and about the beginning of June they arrived at the island of Chiloe, where the Spaniards treated them with great humanity. Lieutenant Hamilton was by some accident left behind in the way, and did not arrive here till the latter end of August.

To such an ill state of health were these four gentlemen reduced by their various distresses, that it was not without great difficulty they recovered, nature being almost worn out on their arrival here.

From Chiloe they were transmitted to Valparaiso and thence to St. Jago, the capital of Chili, where, after having continued about a year, captain Cheap, lieutenant Hamilton, and Mr. Byron, were allowed to embark for Europe on board a French ship, upon the news of a cartel being settled between Great-Britain

Britain and Spain; but Mr. Campbell having turned roman catholic at Buenos Ayres, returned to Spain with Pizarro in the Asia; but failing of his endeavours to procure himself a commission in that service at the court of Madrid, he returned to England, hoping to be again reinstated in the British navy; however, his proceedings among the Spaniards were too recent to admit of his meeting success in that attempt. This gentleman has published a defence of his conduct, together with a memorial of his sufferings; and has since that time obtained a commission in the royal navy of Portugal.

C H A P. IV.

The Tryal sloop sent in search of the Severn and Pearl to Masafuero; no news of them; Masafuero described; the Anna pink is broke up; an enumeration of the losses of the Centurion, the Gloucester, and the Tryal; several prizes taken; the tryal condemned as unfit for service, and sunk; her name given to a prize; Mr. Anson's tenderness of his prisoners; an attempt upon Paita resolved upon.

COMMODORE Anson imagining that either the Pearl or the Severn might touch at Masafuero, in sight of which the Gloucester had been, before she made Juan Fernandes, dispatched the Tryal to enquire into the truth of his suspicions; and she returned, after having sailed quite round the island without having gained the smallest intelligence whatsoever concerning them. Masafuero has been always represented by the Spaniards, who call it the Lesser Fernandes, as a barren rock, without wood, water, or provision of any kind. But this appears to be a political falsity, asserted to prevent hostile vessels from touching here. It bears from the Greater Juan Fernandes west by south, at the distance of twenty-two leagues; is covered with trees, exhibits several fine streams of fresh-water, and abounds with goats, which, not having been often chased, are easily brought down. The shore is bespread with seals and sea-lions, and on the north side there is anchorage in deep wa-

ter, where, in case of necessity, a single ship may find shelter close under the shore; tho' the convenience thereof cannot be boasted of, as it lies exposed to all winds but the south. The latter part of the month of August was spent in unloading the provisions of the *Anna pink*, which vessel, upon a scrutiny of all the carpenters, was judged unable to live upon the water; wherefore, upon a petition of Mr. Gerrard her master, to the commodore, she was purchased, with all her furniture, for the use of the squadron, at the rate of three hundred pounds, to be paid to her owners. And her crew, consisting of ten men and the master, were entered on board the *Gloucester*, which ship had but eighty-two sailors remaining alive, out of three hundred that she brought out of England; two, out of forty-eight marines, and every one of her invalids were perished. The *Centurion*, since her leaving St. Helen's to this time, had buried two hundred and ninety-two of her hands, and had now remaining on board two hundred and fourteen. She had lost forty-six out of fifty invalids, and sixty-eight out of seventy-nine marines, officers included: so that upon a computation, it appears that these three ships, which brought out of England nine hundred and sixty-one men, had among them in all, in September 1741, only three hundred and thirty-five people left alive, boys included: a number scarcely sufficient to man the *Centurion*, and at the best, scarcely sufficient, with the utmost effort of their strength, to navigate the three ships.

The season for navigating in this climate being now near at hand, every body exerted himself in preparing the ships for sea, all hands being busied for this purpose. About eleven in the morning of the 8th they discovered a sail, which the *Centurion*, being in most forwardness, made after as fast as possible; but losing her track in the night, they kept on a south-east course, in hope of coming up with her, as they supposed her bound to Valparaiso; but not getting sight of her again, they resolved to steer back to Juan Fernandes; when, about three in the morning of the 12th, a brisk gale springing up at west south-west, obliged them to lie upon a north-west tack, which, to their agreeable surprize, brought them, upon the break of the morning, in sight of a sail, at about five leagues distance, but not the same they had seen before. She appeared to be a large ship; and upon her hoisting Spanish colours, and bearing upon the *Centurion*, the Commodore ordered every
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thing ready for an engagement ; but upon nearer approach she appeared to be a merchant, without a single tier of guns, who had mistaken the commodore for her consort. She surrendered at the fire of only four shot, and Mr. Saumarez, the Centurion's first lieutenant, was ordered to take possession, and to send all the prisoners, beginning with the officer's and passengers, on board the commodore. She was called the Nueitra Senora de Monte Carmelo ; her cargo consisted of sugar, and large quantities of coarse blue cloth, manufactured at Quito, together with some indifferent tobacco, and a few chests of wrought plate and dollars, weighing about two hundred pounds avoirdupoise : her burthen was four hundred tons : she was manned with fifty three sailors, black and white, and bound from Calao to Valparaíso. The intelligence received from the prisoners on board this prize was of the greatest consequence to the English Squadron ; for by this they first learned part of the fate of Pizarro's Squadron, as also that the viceroy of Mexico had just taken off an embargo that had been laid upon all shipping in those seas, supposing that the English Squadron, of whom he had not lately received any news, must certainly have perished in doubling Cape Horn, the apprehensions of which enemy had solely occasioned the embargo. They also now learned, that had they made Juan Fernandes, when in reality they first discovered it, May the 28th, they had certainly fallen in with some Spanish ships which had been fitted out by the viceroy of Peru, and sent thither to cruise, in expectation of catching such of them as might chance to escape round Cape Horn ; and that these vessels had not quitted their station till the 6th of June, when they gave the English up for lost, & returned to Calao ; so that this delay, which had formerly appeared so terrible a misfortune, occasioning the loss of near eighty men, was in reality a great piece of good luck, and the absolute cause of preserving the ship and the surviving crew. It appearing by letters on board this prize, that several other merchantmen were now at sea between Calao and Valparaíso, Mr. Anson having reinforced the Tryal sloop with ten of his own hands, sent her to cruise off the last mentioned port ; and at the same time, ordering the Gloucester, captain Mitchell commander, to proceed to south latitude fifty degrees, and cruise off the island of Patia till he should be joined by the commodore ; and the better to enable her for this run, he put on board her twenty-

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three sailors, and six passengers from the Carmelo, which he also fitted out as a cruizer with four six pounders, the same number of four pounders and two swivels.

September 19 the Centurion and her prize, weighed from the bay of Juan Fernandes, to make her course to the eastward, to join the Tryal off Valparaiso. On the 24th in the evening, they came up with her, having at first taken her for an enemy, and prepared to engage. They found she had taken a prize of six hundred tons burthen, with much such a cargo as that of the Carmelo, and about five thousand pounds in ready money. But to counterbalance this success, the Tryal's main top-mast came by the board, and she had the ill luck to spring both her main and fore mast. Besides these mortifying circumstances, the wind blew so hard, and there was such a hollow sea, that there was no possibility of assisting her; nor yet was she to be left in such unhappy circumstances. During this embarrassment, it is certain that several considerable prizes must certainly have escaped them. The weather proving more moderate on the 27th, the captain of the Tryal came on board the Centurion, bringing with him an instrument subscribed by himself and all his officers, setting forth, that the vessel was so leaky and defective, that it was of the utmost hazard of their lives they stayed on board her, for that at the next foul weather-squall there could be no hope of keeping her above water, unless she were repaired in such a manner as their present situation could not possibly admit of; wherefore the commodore having ordered every thing useful out of her on board the prize she had taken, together with captain Saunders and her crew, she was scuttled and sunk. This necessary business being dispatched, captain Saunders proceeded in the Tryal's prize to her station off the north north-west point of Valparaiso, attended by lieutenant Saumarez in the Centurion's prize; while the Centurion herself bore away to the southward, with a view of cruising for some days to the windward of Valparaiso, from whence she intended to proceed to Pisco or Nasca, which the commodore named as a place of rendezvous.

The various delays they had met were of such bad consequence, that it was the 5th of November before they could discover any thing like a sail; about this time however, they fell in with, and seized a ship, burthen three hundred tons, bound from Guayaquil to Callao; and laden with timber, cacao, coco,

coco, hides, Pito-thread made of a strong species of grass, wax, Quito cloth, and about one hundred and seventy pounds in money : she was called the Santa Teresa de Jesus, and had forty-five sailors on board, ten passengers, four men, three women, and three black slaves. Mr. Dennis the third lieutenant of the Centurion, was sent with sixteen men in the boat to take possession of her ; and by his courteous humane behaviour he soon convinced them, that their notion of having fallen into the hands of buccaneers and pyrates was very ill-grounded ; for they had laboured under terrible apprehensions of ill usage ; and though the women were extremely agreeable, and the youngest of them particularly handsome, they did not meet the slightest rudeness from the sailors ; but, by the commodore's positive order, had the free use of their apartments, slaves, and necessities, with every other convenience that could possibly be afforded them ; he also permitted the pilot, who is the second person on board every Spanish ship, and a sort of guardian to the women, to continue with them ; this man had at first pretended to be the husband of the handsomest of these ladies, but it was only an honest fraud, calculated to preserve her from being ill used ; and to do justice to their sagacity, they were very sensible of the benevolence, tenderness, and polite behaviour of the commodore, upon whom they begged leave to wait at the time that he afterwards gave them their liberties, that they might personally assure him of their gratitude, and their deep sense of the favours he had conferred upon them. We should not forget to observe, that all the prisoners, upon their first falling into the hands of the English, appeared in the greatest dejection imaginable, expecting nothing but the most barbarous treatment, in a belief whereof much pains must certainly have been taken to ground them ; for they even acknowledged, that after having experienced the politeness of Mr. Anson's behaviour, and his extreme beneficence, they for some time could scarcely credit their own feelings ; so strong was their prepossession. Among the rest there was a lad of about seventeen, son to the vice-president of Chili, who, imagining that he was become a slave for life to a most brutal race, lamented the being separated from his parents, his country, and his friends, in the most pathetic terms ; yet, when this youth had been some time on board, the civility with which every body used him, and the care the commodore took of him,

him, had such an effect upon him, that he declared he would have been content to have spent his life with Mr. Anson. It would be doing injustice to most of the prisoners, not to mention, that after they went ashore, they were loud in praise of their captors; and a Jesuit of some distinction, who had been a prisoner on board one of the prizes, omitted no opportunity of paying his tribute of thanks to the commodore, by everywhere publishing the nobleness of his behaviour; adding, that his usage of the men would always call for the best acknowledgement; but his honourable behaviour to the women was extraordinary, even beyond belief.

The commodore here ordered the boats to be repaired, there being timber enough in the last prize; and to facilitate their boarding an enemy's vessel, in case of necessity, he ordered a swivel gun-stock to be fixed in the bow, both of the barge and of the pinnace. About this time, being in eight degrees or thereabouts, the sea for many miles round was covered with the spawn of fish, which gave it the colour of the finest vermilion; and flying fish and bonitos begun to grow plenty, being the first they had seen since they left the coast of Brazil. November 10, lying off the southernmost islands of Lobos de la Mar, at the distance of three leagues, looking out for the Gloucester, who had been appointed her station hereabouts; they discovered a sail, which lieutenant Brett, with the Tryal's pinnace and barge, were ordered to chase. There being little wind stirring, and it plainly appearing that his ship was not the Gloucester, the lieutenant soon came up with and boarded her; she was called the Nuestra Senora del Carmin, Marcus Morena, a Venetian, commander: she was bound from Panama to Callao, having touched at Patia, for water, with a cargo of steel, iron, wax, pepper, cedar plank, snuff, rosarios, European bale goods, powder-blue, cinnamon, Romish indulgencies, and other pieces of merchandize, of little value to the captors; but if considered with regard to the loss it might be to the Spaniards, was a considerable capture; the cargo having cost at the first hand, upwards of four hundred thousand pounds.

On board of this ship there was an Irishman, whose name was John Williams; he had traveled as a pedlar all over the kingdom of Mexico, and made a great deal of money, which he had lost again by some mischance; this man had been for some

some time confined in the jail of Patia for a misdemeanor, and expressed great joy at falling in with his countrymen. From him they learned, that upon a ship's having been chased in the offing of Patia, a few day before, by a vessel supposed to be the Gloucester, the governor of that town, apprehensive of a visit, together with the royal officer, were removing their own, and the king's treasure to Piura, a town fourteen leagues within land: Williams also told them, that there was a large sum of money belonging to the merchants, lodged in the custom-house, & that it was intended to be shipped the following day, on board a light clean vessel, the bottom of which was newly primed; which vessel was bound to Sonsonate on the coast of Mexico, to purchase part of the cargo of the Manila ship.

This piece of intelligence immediately determined the commodore to endeavour to surprize the place without a moment's delay; as he was fully satisfied, by an enquiry into the strength and condition of it, that there was little danger of losing many men in the attempt; besides, there was a necessity for some step of this sort, as they could hope for no profit by a longer cruize in these seas; the coast being alarmed of their contiguity; and this enterprize not only promised a supply of live provision, which they much wanted, but afforded an opportunity of putting the prisoners a-shore, who being very numerous, made a greater consumption of the ship's stores than she was able to spare.

CHAP. V.

The taking of Patia, and their proceedings there.

THE town of Patia was situated in the latitude of fifty degrees twelve minutes south, on a very barren soil, consisting only of sand and slate; and as it contained in all less than two hundred families, was but of small extent. The houses were only ground floors; the walls built of split cane and mud, and the roofs thatched with leaves; and tho' thus slight, were sufficient for a climate where rain is very rare, which, were it common, would soon destroy them, as it is said to have done a great many in the year 1728. The inhabitants were mostly Indians and black slaves, or at least a mixed breed. The port, tho' little better than a bay, is esteemed the best on that part of the coast,

coast, and is indeed a very good anchorage. As ships from Acapulco, Sonsonate, Realeijo, and Panama, to Callao, can only touch and refresh there, and the length of their voyages, by reason of the winds being most of the year against them, obliges them to it, the port is very much frequented. Yet so parched is the situation of Patia, that nothing was to be had at it except fish and a few goats, fresh water, and all other provisions, maize, greens, fowls, &c. were brought from Colan, an Indian town, two or three leagues to the northward, on floats; and cattle sometimes from Piura, a town fourteen leagues up the country.

The water fetched from Colan, though whitish, is said to be very wholesome, by running, as they pretend, through woods of sarsaparilla. Here too, passengers from Acapulco, or Panama for Lima, usually disembarked, and travelled by land, where there is a pretty good road, with accommodation for travellers, because the passage by sea being two hundred leagues, and the wind generally contrary, is extremely tedious and fatiguing, Patia was an open place, and its only defence is a fort, of the strength of which Mr. Anson's people took care to be well informed, and learned from their prisoners, that it mounted eight pieces of cannon, and was surrounded by a brick wall, without either ditch or out-work; that the garrison consisted only of one weak company, tho' the town might arm three hundred men more. Mr. Anson having informed himself of the strength of the place, resolved (as hath been said in the preceeding chapter) to attempt it that very night. They were then about twelve leagues distant from the shore, far enough to prevent being discovered, yet not so far, but that, by making all the sail they could, they might arrive in the bay, long before day break. But the commodore prudently considering that the ships, being such large bodies, might be seen at a distance, even in the night, and by alarming the inhabitants, give them opportunity to remove their valuable effects, resolved, as the place was not very strong, to attempt it with the boats only, and accordingly ordered the eighteen-oar'd barge and his own, and the tryal's pinnaces on that service; and having manned them with fifty-eight picked men, well furnished with arms and ammunition, gave lieutenant Brett the command of the expedition, and his necessary orders. To prevent any disappointment from the darkness of the night, and the ignorance of

of the streets and passages of the place, two Spanish pilots were ordered to attend the lieutenant, to conduct him to the most convenient landing place, and be his guides afterwards on shore; and to ensure their good behaviour, Mr. Anson promised, if the pilots acted faithfully, to set all the prisoners on shore there; but threatened, in case of misbehaviour, that the pilots should instantly be shot, and the rest of the Spaniards on board carried to England. The prisoners themselves being thus interested in their success, they had no reason to suspect their conductors, either of negligence or perfidy. A singular circumstance is remarked of one of the pilots employed on this occasion. This man, as was afterwards discovered, had been taken above twenty years before, by captain Clipperton, and obliged to lead him and his people to the surprize at Truxillo, a town within land to the southward of Patia, where, though the place was taken and pillaged, he contrived to alarm and save his countrymen. Now that these two attempts on shore, at such a distance of time from each other, should be guided by the same person, contrary to his inclination, & a prisoner at both times, is so extraordinary an incident, that it deserved to be mentioned. But to return to the matter in hand, during the preparations, the ships themselves stood towards the port, with all the sail they could make, being secure, that they were yet too far off to be seen: but about ten o'clock at night, Mr. Brett, with the boats under his command, put off, and got to the mouth of the bay without being discovered; but no sooner had he entered it, than he was observed by some of the people on board a ship at anchor there, who immediately got into their boat, and rowed towards the fort, hallooing, The English! the English Dogs! This suddenly alarmed the whole town, as appeared by several lights hurrying backwards and forwards in the fort, and other marks of great confusion in the town. On this, Brett and his men exerted themselves as much as possible, to prevent their having any time to prepare for their defence. However, before they could reach the shore, some of the cannon were got ready, and pointed towards the landing-place, and the first shot went just over the heads of one of the boats crew, tho' this, in the darkness of night, may well be thought the effect rather of chance than skill; but Brett's people redoubling their efforts upon it, reached the shore, and were most of them disembarked before the second gun fired.

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They were immediately conducted by the pilot, to the end of a narrow street, about fifty yards from the beach, where they were covered from the fire of the fort ; and forming in the best manner the time would allow, marched directly for the Parade, a large square at the end of the street, having the fort on one side, and the governor's house on the other.

The sailors, tho' only threescore, animated with the joy of being on shore, and the hopes of an immense plunder, shouted and huzza'd so on their march, that the enemy, intimidated besides with the noise of their drums, and the darkness of the night, took them to be at least three hundred in number ; which persuasion, struck them with such a panic, that they were more concerned how to get away, than to resist ; and though the sailors, upon entering the Parade, received a volley from the merchants that owned the treasure of the town, who, with a few others, had posted themselves in a gallery that ran round the governor's house, yet they too, upon the first fire by the sailors, immediately fled, and left them in quiet possession of the Parade. Upon this Brett divided his men into two parties, ordering one of them to invest the governor's house, and secure him, if possible ; and then marched at the head of the other to the fort, in order to force it. But he no sooner approached it, than the enemy made the best of their way over the walls ; so that he entered it, contrary to expectation, without any opposition. Thus the whole place was mastered in less than a quarter of an hour from their landing and with the loss of only one man killed, and two wounded ; one of which was the pilot of the Teresa, whose wrist was slightly bruised by a ball ; and the Hon. Mr Kepple, son to the Lord Albemarle, narrowly escaped ; for one side of the peak of a jockey cap he had on, was shaved off close to his temple by a ball, but without hurting him in the least.

Having thus far succeeded, Brett placed a guard at the fort, and another at the governor's house, and centinels at all the avenues of the town, that they might not be surprized, nor the effects of the town embezzled. His next care was to seize on the custom-house, where the treasure lay, and see if any inhabitants remained in the town, that he might regulate his measures accordingly ; but he soon found that but a few remained ; for, being in bed when the place was surprized, most of them had got away in such a hurry, that they had not taken time to put

on their cloaths. Amongst the foremost was the governor, who fled half-naked, leaving his lady, of about seventeen years of age, to whom he had been but just married, behind him. But she was carried off immediately, as the party, by Mr. Brett's orders, came to invest the house.

As Mr. Brett had been charged to secure the governor's person, if possible, with a view of treating with him for the ransom of the place, his escape was an unpleasing circumstance, but what his alertness rendered impossible to prevent. The inhabitants that remained, were confined under a guard in the church, except some stout negroes, who, attended by a file of musqueteers, were employed the rest of the night in transporting the treasure from the custom-house, and other places, to the fort. This was the principal employment of the detachment, after they got possession of the place: But while they were about this, some of them could not be kept from entering the houses in quest of private pillage; where finding a great deal of cloaths, laced or embroidered, after the fashion of the country, with bag and tie wigs, and laced hats, which the Spaniards, in their fright, had left behind them; they eagerly seized them, and put them on over their dirty trowsers and jackets, in which they were quickly imitated by the whole detachment: Some there were, who not finding mens cloaths wherewithal to equip themselves, put up with womens gowns and petticoats, in which they made no scruple to dress, and blend with their own greasy garments, provided there was finery enough. So grotesque was their appearance, that when a party of them thus metamorphosed, appeared before Mr. Brett, he was vastly surprized, and could hardly believe them to be his people. Thus was the detachment in Patia employed the first night: in the mean time the Centurion, after the boats were gone off, lay by till one o'clock in the morning, and then supposing the detachment near landing, made an easy sail for the bay. About seven in the morning, they began to open the bay, and soon after had a view of the town; and though they had all the reason in the world to hope for success, yet was it with great joy, they found their hopes confirmed, by descrying through their perspectives, an English flag hoisted on the flag-staff of the fort, an incontestible proof of the detachment's being in possession of the place. They plied into the bay, as fast as the wind, which blew off shore, would permit; and

at eleven, the Tryal's boat came on board, loaded with dollars and church-plate, and informed them of the preceeding night's transactions. Coming to an anchor in the afternoon, in ten fathom and a half water, at a mile and an half distance from the town, they were near enough to have a more immediate intercourse with those on shore. They then learned, that hitherto Mr. Brett had met with no interruption in collecting or removing the treasure, but that now the enemy was assembled from the country all round, upon a hill at the back of the town, where they made a good appearance, having among them two hundred horse, seemingly well armed and mounted, properly trained and regimented, being furnished with trumpets, drums and standards. To intimidate the detachment, (as their number was now pretty well known) and make them quit the place before the pillage was finished, these horse paraded about the hill with great ostentation, sounding their military musick. But Mr. Brett and his people knowing that this body of horse, notwithstanding their menaces, would not venture, had they been three times as numerous, in streets, and among houses, went on calmly in sending the treasure and the refreshments, such as hogs, fowls, &c. which they found in great abundance, on board the ships. However, at night, to prevent a surprize, the commodore sent a reinforcement on shore, who posted themselves in all the passages leading to the Parade, and traversed the streets with barricadoes six feet high; but at day-break the boats were loaded, and sent off as usual, the enemy continuing quiet all night. They were now sensible how fortunate it would have been, if they had secured the governor, as Mr. Anson proposed; for they found in the town many store-houses full of valuable effects, which were then useless to them, and for which they had no room on board: but if they had taken the governor, he would probably have treated for this merchandize, which would have been very advantageous both to him and them; whereas, being now at liberty, and having raised the country all around, and even got a body of militia from Piura, he was so puffed up with his new army, and military command, he did not seem at all concerned for the fate of his government; and so imprudent and arrogant was he, that though Mr. Anson sent several messages to him by the inhabitants, whom he had made prisoners, offering to treat for the ransom of the town & goods, and intimating, at the same time, that

that he would not insist on a rigorous equivalent, but would perhaps accept of a few live cattle, and necessaries for the use of the Squadron, threatening at the same time, in case of refusal, to set fire to the town, and all the ware-houses, he would not deign to return an answer. On the second day of their being in possession of the place, several negro slaves deserted from the enemy came into the town, and engaged in their service, one of whom was well known to a gentleman on board, who remembered him formerly at Panama. It appeared that the Spaniards were now in great want of water, for many of the slaves stole into the town, and carried off several jars of water, which they continued to do, though some of them were seized, till the detachment left the place. On that day they were informed, both by the deserters and the prisoners they made, that the Spaniards, being now very numerous, had determined to storm the town & fort next night; and that one Gordon, a Scotch papist, and captain of a ship in these seas, was to have the command. Notwithstanding this advice, they prosecuted their work as usual, till the evening, when a reinforcement being sent on shore by the commodore, Mr. Brett doubled his guards at each of the barricadoes; and the posts being connected by means of centinels within call of each other, and the whole visited by frequent rounds, these things, of which the enemy could not be ignorant, as they undoubtedly heard the drum, if not the calls of the centinels, so far cooled their resolution, and made them forget the vaunts of the preceding day, that they passed the second night as quietly as they had done the first.

The sending the treasure on board the Centurion having been finished the night before, the third morning, being the 15th of November, the boats were employed in carrying off the most valuable effects in the town; and the commodore intending to sail in the afternoon, set ashore, according to his promise, all the prisoners, amounting to eighty-eight, and ordered Mr. Brett to secure them in one of the churches, till the men were ready to embark, and then to burn the whole town, except the two churches, which luckily stood at a distance from the town; and then return with his men on board. Agreeably to these orders, Mr. Brett having distributed pitch, tar, &c. into the houses situated in the different parts of the town, that the destruction might be the more sudden, and im-
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possible to be extinguished by the enemy after his departure, & having nailed up the cannon in the fort, set fire to the houses, mostly to windward, then collected his men, and marched to the beach, where the boats waited to carry them off. As the part of the beach, where he was to embark, was an open place, the Spaniards observing he was retreating, resolved in order to lay a foundation for their future boasting, to try to precipitate his departure. Accordingly, a small squadron of their horse, consisting of about sixty, probably picked on purpose, marched down the hill with much seeming resolution; so that Mr. Brett and his men being now in an open place, might have imagined (had they not known them too well, not to be assured it was nothing but ostentation) that they really intended to attack them, had no sooner halted, and faced about, than the enemy stopped their career, and never advanced a step farther. The detachment, upon their arrival at their boats, were kept for some time from going on board, by missing one of their comrades; and not being able, after some delay, to discover where he was, or what detained him, were just ready to embark, and put off without him, when all of a sudden, they heard him calling to them to take him in; but so thoroughly was the town on fire, and so effectually was the beach covered with smoke, that though they heard him, they could not see him. However, one of the boats putting off immediately to take him in, found him up to the chin in water; so frightened was he, with the apprehensions of falling into the hands of an enemy, enraged, as they certainly were, with the destruction and pillage of their town. On enquiry, it was found that a large dose of brandy he had taken that morning, had thrown him into so deep a sleep that he did not wake till scorched by the flames; upon which he was so surpriz'd at observing the houses all in a blaze on one side, & some Spaniards & Indians on the other, that he became sober in an instant, and pushed thro' the thickest of the smoke, and making the best of his way to the beach, ran as far into the water as he durst, (for he could not swim) before he ventured to look back. It is observed, to the honour of the sailors, that tho' there were great quantities of wine and spirituous liquors found in Patia, this was the only one who had neglected his duty so far as to get drunk. Their behaviour on shore is said to have been very regular, for sailors who had been confined so long on ship-board; and tho' it

it might be owing in a good measure to the diligence of their officers, and the discipline they had been used to on board, yet was it no small reputation to the men, to be able to refrain from indulging themselves in those intoxicating liquors that they found in such plenty in almost every warehouse.

There was another oversight of which one of the men was guilty, and which, as it was a very particular circumstance, we shall relate. There was an Englishman, who had formerly wrought as a ship-carpenter at Portsmouth, but leaving his country had engaged in the Spanish service, and was employed by them at the port of Guayaquil; and his friends in England knowing in what part of the world he was, had put letters on board the Centurion directed to him. This man was then among the Spaniards on the hill, and being ambitious, as would seem, of distinguishing himself among his new masters, came down unarmed to one of the centinels, posted at some distance from the fort towards the enemy, pretending that he wanted to surrender himself, and enter into the commodore's service. Tho' the centinel had a pistol cocked in his hand, yet he did suffer the carpenter to approach much nearer than he ought, being deceived by his fair speeches; so that watching his opportunity, he rushed on the centinel, wrenched the pistol from him, and immediately ran up the hill. By this time two sailors, who had observed the fellow, and suspected his design, were making towards him, pursuing him to the top of the hill, fired at him, after he had first discharged his pistol at them, and as they afterwards found, shot him through the body, so that he dropped down as soon as he disappeared, tho', at that time they concluded they had missed him, he being at a great distance, and hid immediately after their firing by the crest of the hill. The centinel, who had been so grossly imposed upon and surprised upon his post, was ordered to be whipped, as he had given an example of carelessness, which if followed, might have been of the most fatal consequence.

But to return: While the sailors were helping their comrade out of the water, and making the best of their way to the squadron, the flames had made such a progress in the town, by means of the combustibles that had been distributed for that purpose, and the materials of which the houses were composed, that it seemed absolutely impossible for the Spaniards to save any of the town, or merchandize in it. A whole town on fire,

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and burning with such violence and rapidity, being a very singular spectacle, the officers and sailors gazed at it some time with great attention.

The detachment having safely joined the squadron, the commodore resolved to leave the place the same evening. When he first entered the bay he found six vessels at anchor, one of which that was intended to carry the treasure to Mexico, being thought to be a good sailer, he took with him; of the other five, of which two were snows, two row-galleys of thirty-six oars each, and one a bark, which, as they were informed, had been fitted out at several ports, and intended to prevent their landing in the neighbourhood of Calao; for the Spaniards, on the first intelligence of their squadron and its force, expected they would attempt the city of Lima: of these five, I say, he had ordered the masts to be cut away at his first arrival, and on his leaving the place to be towed out of the harbour, scuttled and sunk. The command of the remaining ship, called the *Solidad*, was given to lieutenant Hughes, with a crew of ten men; and towards midnight the squadron weighed anchor, and sailed out of the bay, being now increased to six sail, that is, the *Centurion*, the *Tryal's* prize, the *Carmelo*, the *Teresa*, the *Carmin*, and their last taken vessel the *Solidad*.

Before we entirely quit the account of the transactions at this place, it will not be amiss to give an account of the booty Mr. Anson got here, and of the loss the Spaniards sustained. It hath been before observed, that there were great quantities of valuable merchandize in the town, the total amount of which, as they could neither be carried away nor disposed of, can only be rudely guessed at. The Spaniards, it is assured, in their representations to the court of Madrid, estimated their loss at a million and a half of dollars; and as a great part of the goods destroyed there, were of the most costly kind, such as broad-cloths, silks, cambricks, velvets, the estimation may not perhaps be immoderate. The acquisition made at this town, tho' inconsiderable when compared to what they destroyed, was far from being despicable, since wrought plate, dollars, and other coin, that fell into their hands, amounted to upwards of thirty thousand pounds, besides rings, bracelets, and jewels, whose value they did not then know, and the plunder that belonged to the immediate captors, which was very great; upon the whole, it was the most important booty they had made upon that

that coast. Mr. Anson gained great honour to himself, and even to the nation, by his treatment of the prisoners he made on those seas. It has been observed, that all the prisoners were, according to promise, set ashore at Patia. There were some persons of considerable distinction among them, particularly a youth of seventeen years of age, son of the vice-president of the council of Chili. The barbarity of the Buccaneers, and the artful use the ecclesiastics had made of it, having filled the natives of these countries with the most terrible ideas of the English, the prisoners, upon coming on board, always appeared under the greatest horror and anxiety: the youth above-mentioned, having never before been from home, regretted in very moving terms his separation from his parents, his brothers, sisters, and his native country, which he believed he should never see again, persuaded that he was doomed, for the remaining part of his life, to an abject and cruel slavery; nor was he singular in this, all the other prisoners had the same opinion of their situation. Mr. Anson set himself to efface as much as possible these terrifying ideas, always taking care that as many of the principal persons as there was room for, should dine at his own table by turns, and that they should constantly be treated with the utmost decency and humanity. For some days, however, they still retained their fears, and suspected this gentleness as preparatory to some great calamity; but being at length convinced that no harm was meant, they grew perfectly easy and chearful: so that it seemed doubtful, whether they considered their situation as a misfortune or not; particularly the youth above-mentioned, who was two months on board, had got the better of his melancholy to such a degree (and taken such a liking to Mr. Anson and his present way of life) that it was much questioned, had the proposal been made, whether he would not have preferred going to England in the Centurion to being set ashore at Patia. The conduct of the commodore made them entertain high and honourable thoughts, not only of himself, but of the whole British nation, as men are very apt to form general ideas, particularly after taking the Teresa; for he treated the women found on board her with such civility and respect, permitting the pilot to stay with them as their guardian, not suffering any of his people to go near them, nor even seeing them himself, tho' both the daughters were handsome, and one of them a beauty, that the Spaniards

were

were equally surprized and charmed with such conduct in an enemy and heretic, especially the women, who absolutely refused to go on shore at Patia, till they had waited upon him, and returned him thanks in person. All the prisoners professed the most greatful sense of his civility and politeness, among whom was a jesuit, an ecclesiastic of some distinction; he declared, that he should consider it as his duty to do justice to Mr. Anson on all occasions; that his treatment of the men was such as could never be forgot, but that of the women so extraordinary and so honourable, that he questioned much if the regard due to his ecclesiastical character could gain credit to it; and they afterwards found that he had not been worse than his word, but that both he and the rest of the prisoners, had every where bestowed the highest encomiums on the commodore; that the jesuit in particular had, on his account, interpreted in a lax sense, that article of his church which asserts the impossibility of heretics being saved.

The impressions the Spaniards thence received to the advantage of this nation, may prove very advantageous to it, as they have already to several particular persons. As our trade with Spain is extremely valuable, and the transacting it depends so much on the honour of those entrusted with its management, their confidence and good opinion must be highly interesting to us; but had no national advantage attended it, that humanity which has procured him so great a reputation amongst the Greolian Spaniards, and is not confined to the coast of the south seas, but extends through all their settlements, would not have been in the least abated, as being the natural effect of his equity and good temper.

C H A P. VI.

The Squadron sails from Patia; disputes about plunder adjusted; steer for Quibo; the island of Quibo described; account of the pearl fishery in the bay of Panama; they miss the Acapulco ship; the Squadron in want of water; steers for Chequeton; a description of that harbour; surprizing qualities of the torpedoes; they depart for China.

WHEN they made sail from the coast of Patia, the commodore gave orders, that the Squadron should spread themselves

themselves to look for the Gloucester. For they then drew near the station where captain Mitchel had been directed to cruise, and hourly expected to get sight of him, tho' the whole day passed without seeing him.

And now a jealousy between those who had been commanded on shore for the attack, and those who had continued on board, grew to such a height, that the commodore thought it necessary to interpose his authority to appease it. The ground of this animosity was the plunder of Patia, which those who had acted on shore had appropriated to themselves, as a reward for the risks they had run in that service. But those who had remained on board looked on this as a very unjust procedure, urging, that had it been left to their choice, they should have preferred the acting on shore to the continuing on board; that their duty was extremely fatiguing; for besides the labour of the day, they were constantly under arms all night to secure the prisoners, whose numbers exceeded their own, and of whom it was then thought necessary to be extremely watchful: that it could not be denied, but that the presence of a sufficient force on board was as necessary to the success of the enterprise, as the action of the others on shore; and therefore those who had continued on board maintained, that they could not be deprived of their share, without manifest injustice. These were the contests amongst the men which were carried on with great heat; and though the plunder was a very trifle, in comparison of the treasure taken in the place, (in which there was no doubt but those on board had an equal right) yet the commodore thought it necessary to put a stop to this ferment betimes. Accordingly the morning after leaving Patia, he ordered all hands upon the quarter-deck; where, addressing himself to those who had been detached on shore, he commended their behaviour, and thanked them for their services: but then representing to them the reasons urged, by those who continued on board, he told them, that he tho't these reasons conclusive, and that the expectations of their comrades were justly founded, and therefore insisted that not only the men, but all the officers likewise, who had been employed in taking the place, should produce the whole of the plunder immediately upon the quarter-deck; and that it should be divided amongst the whole crew, in proportion to each man's rank and commission: and to prevent those who had been in possession of the
plunder

plunder from murmuring at this diminution of their share, the commodore added, that as an encouragement to others who might be hereafter employed on like services, he would give his share to be distributed amongst those who had been detached for the attack of the place. Thus this troublesome affair, which might perhaps have been attended with mischievous consequences, was by the commodore's prudence soon appeased, to the general satisfaction of the ship's company : not but there were some few, whose selfish dispositions were uninfluenced by the justice of this procedure, and who were incapable of discerning the force of equity; when it tended to deprive them of any part of what they had once got into their hands.

On the morning of the 18th, they gained sight of the Gloucester, and were joined by her about three in the afternoon. She had only taken two prizes, one of which was a snow laden with wine brandy, and olives, besides about seven thousand pounds in specie; the other a launch, the people on board which, when taken by the Gloucester's barge, were at dinner upon pigeon-pye, on a service of plate; notwithstanding which opulent appearance, they complained of their poverty, having nothing on board but cotton made up in jars, which were all removed into the Gloucester; where, upon a strict examination, it appeared to be a fraudulent package, there being doubloons and dollars hid among the cotton, to the amount of twelve thousand pounds, the property of the merchants of Patia.

The Gloucester had, besides these, been in sight of two or three other ships belonging to the enemy, one whereof they had reason to believe of prodigious value; but she found it impossible to come up with them.

As the squadron began to want water, the commodore gave orders for proceeding to Quibo, an island in the mouth of the bay of Panama; and having there taken in a supply, he had resolved to steer for the southern parts of California, or the contiguous coast of Mexico, there to cruize for the Manila-galley, which they knew to be at this time at sea, on her way to Acapulco, where it was generally the middle of January before she arrived; and it being now only November, they imagined they should be able to gain the road time enough to intercept her, not conceiving the passage would cost them more than a month or five weeks.

They were at this time eight sail in all; but the Santa Teresa and

and the *Solidad* moving slowly upon the water, and retarding the progress of the rest of the vessels very much, the commodore ordered them to be cleared of every thing useful, and then burned. On the 22d they made the island of Plate; to which land one of the prizes was ordered to stand close in, to discover if any ships lay between that and the continent, and also to look out for a stream of fresh water reported to be there, which, if verified, would have saved them the trouble of going to Quibo; but she returned without having seen any ships, or discovered any water. About three in the afternoon they saw the point of Manta, bearing south-east by east seven miles distant; and here the captain of the *Gloucester* chose to set some of his prisoners at liberty in the Spanish launch.

Having now passed the equinoctial, they found the climate change from a uniform pleasant temperature, to close sultry weather; with frequent calms and heavy rains, as they drew nearer the Isthmus and quitted the shade of the Cordilleras: which alteration they first imagined to proceed from the neighbourhood of the line; but they were satisfied, from this kind of weather attending them in seven degrees north, that the Vandevals or stormy seasons were not yet ended, notwithstanding what is affirmed by captain Shelvocke and others, of its beginning in June and ending in November. It now became necessary from the continuance of the rain, to caulk the sides and decks of the *Centurion* to make her the more staunch.

On the 27th, captain Mitchel of the *Gloucester*, having cleared her prize, by the commodore's order, scuttled & burned her. December the 3d they came in sight of Quibo, where in the evening of the following day they anchored in thirty-three fathom muddy ground; which situation they changed the day after for a rough gravelly bottom twenty-two fathom deep; the watering-place bearing three quarters of a mile north-west from the ship. The island of Quibo is pretty lofty, except in one place; the whole soil is covered with trees, extending as far as the high-water-mark, and a stream of fresh water rolls over the sandy beach into the sea; so that the *Centurion* was able to lay in a sufficient stock of wood and water in two days. A perpetual verdure crowns the glebe, and limes and cassia abound among the woods; wherein are to be found plenty of guano and monkeys, that are good food, with numbers of deer, that cannot be easily come at; but besides parrots, paroquets, and mackaws,

mackaws, all other birds seem to be strangers to the place. The Spaniards say, that a flying snake is often found here, which clings to the boughs of trees, from whence it takes an opportunity of darting upon man or beast, giving inevitable death with its sting.

Besides these dangerous land animals the sea is infested with large alligators, and with a flat fish of considerable bigness, which leaps a great height out of the water, and is fatal to the pearl divers, by clasping them in its fins as they rise from the bottom; however, to free themselves from this destructive embrace, they now go armed with a sharp knife, and by flicking it into the belly of the fish regain their liberty. In most parts of the island the soil is very fertile; & the water, which is excellent, abounds on every hand. There are no inhabitants upon it, but huts erected in several places, perhaps to shelter the pearl-divers, who frequent this island in the summer season, for the pearl oyster, which is found every where in the bay of Panama, abounds particularly about Quibo; and may in many parts be taken up without any trouble but that of wading. They are very large, but ill tasted; the pearl partaking of the nature of the bottom whereon it is found; so that if the bottom be muddy, the pearl is of a dusky hue. The fishing for them is practised by negroes carefully trained up to the business by the inhabitants of Panama: these poor creatures often stay under water till the blood gushes out of their eyes, ears, and mouth; an accident which seldom happens a second time; and after which they dive with more facility than ever, if the tradition of the country is to be relied upon.

There are vast quantities of turtle along the coast, some of which may be often met fast asleep on the surface of the water: and these are taken by sending out the boat with a good diver, who plunges into the water when some yards from the turtle, and rising almost under it, seizes it by the tail, which he pinches hard, the pain whereof moves the animal, who being awakened, strikes out his claws, whereby he keeps upon the surface of the water, supporting the diver at the same time. Green turtle is extremely wholesome food, the truth of which is evinced by the Centurion losing only two men during her run from Juan Fernandes to the bay of Aquetan, which engrossed a space of seven months; during four whereof turtle was the only fresh provision the people had to command.

It may appear odd, but nevertheless it is true, that eating
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of turtle is forbid among the Spaniards, as unwholesome, nay as little less than poisonous; a prejudice which has descended to their negroes and slaves, some of whom, who were on board the Centurion, thought the crew thereof mad for venturing upon food, the effects whereof had been represented to them in so very bad a light; however, being at last tempted to partake, they grew fonder of it in time than any body else; and ridiculed the caprice of their Spanish masters in rejecting such a delicacy; looking upon their knowledge of its goodness as a very important discovery: for those who are acquainted with this part of the world need not be told, that the wretched inhabitants know no blessing greater, than that of being always supplied with as much food as they can dispose of, and large draughts of spirituous liquors: from feeding sparingly upon this diet, they became ravenous in the consumption of it; and it was common to hear them felicitate each other upon being able to provide themselves such luxurious repasts upon their return home, to which the Spaniards could not but be strangers.

December the 10th, a small bark with some salt and upwards of thirty pounds in money, fell into their hands off the island of Quibo: she was bound to Cheripe, an inconsiderable village on the continent, from whence the market of Panama is furnished with provisions every week; Cheripe is a place quite open to invasion, having no defence of any sort; and provisions being its staple commodity, future cruizers upon this coast may profit from the intelligence. On the 12th they stood from Quibo to the westward, having scuttled and sunk the last prize, and being joined by the Gloucester, which having sprung her foretop-mast, had been divided from them for some days; and now the commodore proceeded to cruize for the Manila ships, having first instructed his squadron to stretch to the northward of the harbour of Acapulco; and in case of separation, to rendezvous at the middle of the Tres Marias; and afterwards at the island of Macao, on the coast of China. They were harassed with contrary winds from this time to the 9th of June, on which day the Manila ship reached the harbour of Acapulco, as they were informed by three negroes, whom the Centurion's barge surprized in a fishing canoe, which they afterwards turned adrift among the rocks, that from its being dashed in pieces the Spaniards might infer the owners of it were drowned, and not impute their loss to the real cause.

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This capture was made on the 17th of February, until which time all the sailors had indulged themselves with hopes, that the voyage of the Acapulco ship had been by some chance delayed; and at one time, a little before this, they had chased a light all night long which they supposed to be carried by her as a signal to her consort, & made a clear ship, & all things ready for engaging; but the morning shewed it to be no more than a mountain within land, the stubble whereof had been set on fire, and the effect caused them to be thus deceived. However, to comfort them for the loss of the Manila ship this time, they were informed by their negro prisoners, that she having turned her cargo into ready money, was preparing again to put to sea, her departure being fixed to the 3-14 of March, by edict of the vice-roy of Mexico.

By all the intelligence Mr. Anson could collect besides from these people, he inferred that the governor of Acapulco remained ignorant of an enemy's being so near at hand, and consequently that his chance for seizing the so much desired prize, was now greater than ever; and that she should not escape him at any rate, he disposed his 5 ships in such a manner, that they took up a sweep of twenty-four leagues at least, within which compass nothing could pass without its being known by the whole squadron; the vessels being so judiciously ranged, that they could easily and speedily be informed of what passed in any part of the line by signals. The better to prepare for the reception of the galeon, there were left on board the *Carmin*, the *Carmelo*, and the *Tryal* prize, no more hands than were sufficient to navigate them, the rest being sent on board the *Gloucester* and *Centurion*, which two ships were intended for the attack: and as an encouragement to the negroes, they were promised their freedom in case of their deserving it by their good behaviour in the engagement.

At length the 3-14 March, the day they had so long and eagerly expected, appeared; but, to their great mortification, the evening thereof set in, without the least appearance of the galeon. From that day to the 23d of March old stile, they had hopes of her as they were satisfied she had not quitted the harbour of Acapulco; & every man formed to himself reasons for her being detained: but now the whole fleet beginning to stand in need of water, it was agreed to make the best of their way to *Sequatancio* or *Chequetan*, there to take in a supply; and left

lest that the galeon might slip out to sea, taking advantage of their absence, Mr. Hughes, lieutenant of the *Tryal's* prize, was ordered to cruize off the harbour of Acapulco for twenty-four days in the cutter, that in case she should set sail, they might be speedily informed thereof.

April 1-11, being pretty far advanced towards Chequetan, they dispatched two boats to range along the coast, in search of the watering-place: as they were absent 4 or five days, it was a great happiness, that during that time they had daily supply of turtle; for had they been reduced to their salt provisions, with so scanty an allowance of water as their present small stock afforded, must have suffered considerably in this warm climate. The long absence of their boats began to fill them with many gloomy suggestions, which were at length happily dissipated by their return, with an account of their having met a proper watering place seven miles westward of the rocks of Seguetaneio, which, by the description they gave appeared to be the port of Chequetan, mentioned by Dampier. For this place the squadron immediately steered, and came to anchor on the 7th in the evening in eleven fathom water; but the *Carmin* and *Carmelo* having fallen to the leeward, the *Tryal's* prize was dispatched to bring them up, which task she performed in two or three days.

There is a beach of sand extending eighteen leagues from the harbour of Acapulco to the westward, against which the sea breaks so violently, that it is impossible for boats to land on any part of it; but there is good anchorage for shipping at a mile or two from the shore, during the fair season. The adjacent land is low, here & there interspersed with small eminences, whereon are watch-towers; it is well cultivated, covered with pleasant villages, & planted with trees, affording on every side a most agreeable prospect; but it is remarkable, and to my thinking odd, that this district, apparently the most pleasant, the best cultivated, and the most populous upon the whole coast, should be without the smallest kind of naval craft, either for fishing or amusement; there being neither boat nor canoe to be discerned near it: and as this deficiency cannot arise from the want of convenient landing places, it is not improbable that the government have prohibited their use, to prevent smuggling.

To the westward of this beach lies the bay of Seguataneio or Chequetan.

Chequestan, the enterance whereof is very exactly described by Mr. Walter, in his account of this voyage, because it is very hard to be traced, and of vast importance to such vessels as cruize in those seas. The watering-place here is a standing lake derived from a small spring about a mile up the country; & the part of this lake contiguous to the sea, being a little brackish, Mr. Anson ordered his stock of water to be bro't from the other end, where it was much better tasted. This lake did not appear to have any communication at this time with the sea; & as Dampier speaks of it as a large river, it is very likely that in the rainy season it overflows its banks, & lays the neighbouring country under water, in which situation it was perhaps seen by him.

From the promising aspect of the country, Mr. Anson entertained some hopes of cultivating a correspondence with the inhabitants, and procuring a store of provisions in exchange for such coarse merchandise as their prizes had afforded, which in his hands were of little worth, but to these people, at his manner of rating them, must have been extremely valuable.

For this purpose he dispatched a company of forty men well armed into the country, to try if they could find any village: these men having marched about five miles from the harbour, discovered two roads leading east and west, the former whereof they chose; and marched all day, along a beaten track, where they often saw horse and mule dung, but no sign of inhabitants or village. On their entering indeed a large savannah, they had sight of a centinel well mounted, whose horse starting at the sight of their arms, bore off his master with vast speed, who dropped his hat and pistol in his flight; and tho' they pursued him for some time, he soon escaped, having the advantage of them by being on horseback. So that at length, being quite wearied out with their fatiguing march, and neither having found water to quench their thirst, nor any other refreshment, they were obliged to halt; and then resolve to return, some of them having fainted, and being obliged to the shoulders of their stronger comrades for support; however, they prudently erected poles in several places, to which they affixed declarations in Spanish, inviting the people to come down to the ships to traffic, assuring them of safeguard and considerable profit; but this proceeding had not the desired effect. We should not forget here to observe that if they had pursued the western, instead of the eastern road, they would soon have come up with a Spanish village, as

they were afterwards informed, that lay not more than two miles from the turning.

This disappointment made a sensible impression upon all the people; however they contented themselves as well as they could with guanoes, of which they here found great plenty, and which by some people are reckoned fine food; and large pheasants, the flesh whereof is but indifferent, together with parrots, and some well-tailed birds of a smaller size. Besides the hog plum, the papah, a few small limes, and an ill flavoured, bitter antiscorbutic herb, called brook-lime, the soil afforded them scarcely a fruit or vegetable. The best that can be said of Chequetan, upon the whole, is, that it is the most secure harbour to be met in a vast extent of coast, yielding good store of wood and water, and at a sufficient distance from Acapulco, to shelter such cruizers as may have designs upon the valuable vessel to which that town sometimes gives its name. Moreover it is surrounded by wood, thro' which there is but one narrow pass cut into the country, which may be defended against all the strength the Spaniards can possibly muster, by a very small party; the bay furnishes plenty of fish, among which we may reckon soles, mullets, breams, cavalles, sea-eggs, lobsters, fiddle-fish, and the torpedo or numbing fish, so like the last that we have named, that it is only to be distinguished from it by a brown circular spot upon the center of its back. Whoever happens to touch this fish, feels an instantaneous numbness diffuse itself through his whole body, but affecting more particularly the limb that was in contact with it; and the diminution of this numbness Mr. Walter, from experience, affirms to be gradual, though some naturalists have assured us that it was sudden; and though a man touches it with a stick, he will find himself benumbed, as though he had laid his naked hand upon it; so forceful is the communication.

It was in this harbour that Lewis Leger the commodore's cook wandering into the woods, was taken prisoner by some Indians, who carried him to Acapulco, whence he was transmitted to Mexico; and being afterwards sent to Vera-Cruz, was shipped for Old Spain; but the vessel touching at Lisbon, he made his escape to the house of the British consul, who procured him a passage to England; where he brought the first account of Mr. Anson's safety, which had for some time been a doubtful point. This man being a French roman catholic, was

first thought to have deserted to the enemy with such intelligence as he could collect; a suspicion that in the end appeared to be very ill grounded; he was afterwards killed in a trifling quarrel, in a night-house in London. He had been severely used in his captivity, having been stripped stark naked, exposed to the scorching heat of the sun, which was almost intolerable, all the way from Chequetan to Acapulco; and the ill treatment he met with in a prison at Mexico, wherein he was kept closely confined, manifested the vast hatred the Spaniards harbour against all people who seek to disturb their quiet in the South-Seas.

Altho' the enemy never appeared in sight during Mr. Anson's stay here, it was evident from different volumes of smoke, that large parties of them were encamped in the woods on every side of the harbour. Mr. Brett indeed in once coasting round it in a boat, accompanied only by sixteen men, saw three squadrons of horse well armed and accoutered; one of which formed upon the beach, to which he made, firing at him several distant shots; but no sooner had Mr. Brett come near enough to bring his arms to bear upon them, but this gallant cavalry fled upon the first volley; one of the men that composed it falling, together with his horse, both or one of which being perhaps wounded, the other two other squadrons kept aloof, and never moved to assist their companion, tho' they amounted to near two hundred, and were opposed only by sixteen men.

It now appearing upon a scrutiny, that they had not more hands than were necessary to man a fourth rate man of war; Mr. Anson, with the consent of his officers, resolved to scuttle and destroy the Tryal's prize, the Carmelo, and the Carmin, and to divide the richest part of their cargoes and their crews between the Centurion and Gloucester; which was accordingly done on the 28th of April, when the remaining ships of the squadron warped out of the harbour; leaving behind them a letter corked up in a bottle, and placed in a canoe fixed to a grapnel in the middle of the harbour, acquainting Mr. Hughes, to whom it was directed, that the commodore was returned to his station off Acapulco; that he intended to quit it in a few days, and return to the rest of his squadron, which continued cruising to the southward. This last article was inserted to deceive the Spaniards, in case, as it afterwards happened, the canoe should fall into their hands; as for Mr. Hughes, he knew the

the commodore had no squadron to join, nor yet any design of steering back to Peru; so that it could have had no effect upon him. The stormy season now coming on, and it appearing plainly that the voyage of the Acapulco ships was laid aside for this year, Mr. Anson having no farther business in the American seas, resolved to steer to China, after having picked up his cutter, in search of which, he to no purpose cruized all along the coast, advancing even within three leagues of Acapulco, a town which he had formerly designed to have stormed; but was dissuaded therefrom by a consideration of his own weakness, and a comparative view of the strength and fortifications of the place. It was now May the 22d, when not having the least sign of Mr. Hughes or of the cutter, Mr. Anson imagined it might have been taken and carried into Acapulco; a loss which the commodore could not at this time rightly put up with, there being on board her some of the stoutest fellows that remained yet alive between the ships. Therefore taking the capture of them as a certainty, he wrote a very polite letter to the governor of Acapulco, requesting him to deliver them up, and in return, promising to release all the Spanish prisoners now in his hands; among whom were some people of figure. This letter was sent off in a launch in the care of a Spanish officer, of whom the commodore had a good opinion, and who was conducted by six other prisoners, who gave their parole for their return. The governor of Acapulco returned a polite answer to the commodore's message, and sent him also two boats loaded with refreshments; but these never reached him, for before their setting out, the cutter came on board with the men almost starved, and scarcely able to stand; they were all straight put to bed, supplied with food from the commodore's table, and being otherwise taken proper care of, soon recovered their strength. It seems that, having finished their cruise before Acapulco, they plied to the westward, in order to join the squadron, but were driven to the eastward by a strong current, wherewith they found it in vain to contend; and now their water being expended, they endeavoured to find out a convenient landing-place, where they might get a supply, but to no purpose, there being so large a surf for near eighty leagues, that they ran to leeward, and there was not the least possibility of their making the shore. The blood of the turtle that they caught upon the water, was for some days their only refreshment; and now beginning to despair

despair of relief, there fell a violent shower of rain, the water of which, being caught in their sails spread horizontally, with bullets placed in their center to draw them to a point, filled all their casks, and meeting almost at the same time a strong current in their favour, they joined the commodore in fifty hours, after an absence of forty-three days; a junction which must appear very surprising to those who consider the many dangers that must certainly attended upon an open boat only twenty-two feet long, upon so terrible a coast, and such a tempestuous sea, during a six weeks cruise.

The commodore having now no farther business here, discharged all his prisoners, some few stout negroes excepted; they amounted to fifty-seven, and were furnished with two launches well equipped with masts, sails, and oars; and stocked with provision for fourteen days. They all came safely to Acapulco, where they talked loudly of Mr. Anson's politeness and humanity. May the 6th, the Centurion and Gloucester lost sight of the high mountains of Mexico, bound to the river Canton, where they hoped soon to enjoy the society of some of their countrymen, and the advantages of a port fraught with every conveniency, and inhabited by an amicable polished people.

C H A P. VII.

The Centurion and Gloucester much damaged; the latter destroyed; the former anchors at Tinian; drove out to sea, but happily gets back; sails to China and rests.

THE Centurion and the Gloucester being once again out at sea, stood over to the south-west, in hope of gaining the thirteenth or fourteenth degree of north latitude, a parallel in which the Pacific ocean is oftenest crossed, as affording the safest navigation; they had also another view in this tack, which was that of coming up with the trade wind at north-east; but though they soon gained their first point, the latter was an expectation wherein they were entirely baffled by bad weather and contrary wind. It was the latter end of June before they fell in with the trade wind: at which time they had been seven weeks at sea, yet had not made above one fourth of their run, though it was common to make the whole in less than two months. July the 26th, being then about three hundred leagues from

from the Ladrones, the wind came about to the west, and by continuing in that point four days, considerably retarded their progress; and a few days after, the Gloucester began to grow more crazy than ever; she had been one continued plague to the crew of the Centurion, as well as her own people, ever since they had quitted Chequetan, and now besides bringing her fore-top mast and main top-mast by the board, she had seven foot of water in her hold; it blew a hurricane from the west, and the Centurion herself, at the same time sprung a leak which required all the attendance both of officers and men to cure; so that they could afford little assistance to their mate. However, she sent her boat aboard, which soon returned with a remonstrance, signed by captain Mitchel and all his officers, setting forth that the ship's leaks were irreparable; that they had no spare masts to hoist in room of those that were destroyed; that she was quite decayed in many places; that her knees and clamps were loose; and her upper works so crazy that the quarter-deck was ready to drop down; that her crew were reduced to ninety-five men, including officers, and eighteen boys, besides two prisoners; and that out of these only sixteen men and eleven boys were able to keep the deck, nor yet were those in the best state of health; moreover their fresh water and provisions were covered over by the sea-water pouring in so fast upon them below deck, that there was no coming at refreshment. As it was a little calm, the commodore ordered them a boat-load of water and provisions, and at the same time desired his own men to examine into the truth of the state of her case, which they reporting not to have been the least exaggerated, the commodore gave orders that captain Mitchel should send all his hands on board the Centurion; and having saved what stores he was able, to destroy her. In about two days they cleared her of such stores as they could most easily arrive at, and it was with difficulty they saved the money she had taken in the South-seas; but most of the prize goods, which were very valuable, and belonged to the Centurion, were forced to be abandoned; of her provisions, only five casks of flour could be preserved, three of which were damaged by the salt-water: and tho' the Gloucester's sick men, amounting to seventy, were put on board the Centurion, with as much care and tenderness as circumstances could admit, three or four of them expired in the very action of being hoisted up. August the 15th, having taken

taken out of her every thing proposed, she was set on fire, and continued burning all night, the flames gaining upon her gradually, and her guns going off one by one, till at length about one o'clock in the morning, she blew up with a small report: four leagues a-head of the Centurion, and a black pillar of smoke arising from the blast, shot up to a considerable height in the air.

Thus was Mr. Anson reduced to one ship, wherewith he hoped to have some better success than he had lately found, being no longer clogged with any embarrassments that might contribute to his delay. In two or three days after the Gloucester was burned, the carpenter luckily found the Centurion's leak, which he could not absolutely stop without getting at the outside of the ship; a task at present impossible: however, he patched it up pretty well; it was under the breast hook on each side of the stem, in the gunner's fore store-room. August the 23d, they discovered two islands to the westward, and soon after a third; a sight whence they derived fresh spirits, as they stood in vast need of repair. The boat was dispatched to one of them, which returned with an account that they could find no anchoring ground for ships; that they had been on shore, where they saw abundance of coco-nut trees, but neither water nor inhabitants; they also added, that it was not without some danger they had landed, the beach being steep, and the swell running very high.

This account gave them but a very gloomy prospect, the scurvy which had attended them for three months past with as much virulence as ever, making a prodigious havoc on board, while the fatigue of the officers and men, who laboured hard at the pump, because of the leak, became almost insupportable. They now stood from the islands of Annatacan, Serignan, and Pazaros, for these were the names of the three, we have just now noticed, hoping to fall in with some of the Ladronez, which they knew could afford them sufficient accommodation: but for the making of them they were obliged to trust almost entirely to chance; there being no body on board who had any certain knowledge of their identity. August the 26th they made three other islands, bearing about fourteen leagues distant from the last, they afterwards found to be Saypan, Tinian and Aguinan. They immediately steered for the middlemost of the three, holding Spanish colours, with a red flag at the fore-top-mast head,

head, in hope that by passing for the Manila galley they might be able to decoy some of the inhabitants on board, from whom they might receive some intelligence relative to the place, according to which they might deport themselves. And now standing for the land, under this appearance, the cutter was dispatched to find out a proper birth for the ship, which soon sent on board a Spaniard and four indians, which she had seized in a proa, coming off shore, to meet the Centurion, mistaking her for the Manila galeon. The Spaniard was immediately examined as to the condition and products of Tinian, and his answers exceeded their warmest hopes. He assured them that there were no inhabitants on the island, except twenty-two Indians, who were there occasionally jerking beef, which, when loaded on board a small bark of fifteen tons burthen, then lying at anchor near shore, was to be sent to the garrison at Guam, wherof he was a serjeant; he also reported, that the island abounded with coco-nuts, lemons, limes, oranges, sweet and sour, together with various other fruits, particularly the bread fruit; that hogs, poultry, and black cattle ran wild upon it; that the soil was rich, plentifully and beautifully watered, and the air good.

As they came closer in with the land, the prospect thereof indicated, if possible, something desirable, even beyond the serjeant's description; it wore rather the air of an elegant plantation than an uninhabited island; the verdant lawns, the sloping hills, the purling streams, and tall aspiring trees, looked like the disposition of art and ingenuity, and had an effect agreeably surprising. The commodore having ordered the pinnate and the cutter ashore, with some men well-armed to seize the bark, and if possible, the Indians, ordered the anchor to be let go in twenty-two fathom, and the ship to lie by for that night with her sails furled, that her hands might gain some repose; for out of one thousand men he had bro't from England, he could muster but seventy-one, and those too so weak and infirm, they were scarce able to stand to a gun. This diminution of their number was owing to the havock made among them by the fever, which had raged terribly on board ever since they left Chequetan, all the surgeon's efforts to stop its progress being ineffectual; nor know we to what to attribute its prevalence, as the whole ship's crew were during the whole run, plentifully supplied with fresh provisions and good water, but to the

disposition of the blood, already broken with fatigue and disorder, to infection, and by remembering that the steam of the ocean, when corrected by no terrestrial particles, encourages it prodigiously ; and this latter is confirmed by the land-air soon restoring to health those whose constitutions are not entirely decayed. In the morning a large party of men were sent on shore to erect tents, and prepare quarters for the sick ; the former was a piece of trouble that the Indians had saved them, by building huts for their own shelter, the largest whereof being twenty feet long and fifteen broad, was immediately fitted up as an hospital, to which the sick, amounting to one hundred and eighty-one, were brought with all possible expedition.

Tinian lies in fifteen degrees eight minutes north latitude : it is one of the Ladrões, which reckoned altogether, great and small, are about twenty in number. Mr. Walter thus describes this enchanting island, so happily adapted by its products, and the salubrity of the air, to restore the health of the Squadron, almost totally destroyed by hardship and want of proper provisions. " The soil is every where dry and healthy, and being withal somewhat sandy, it is thereby the less disposed to a rank and over-luxuriant vegetation ; and hence the meadows and the bottoms of the woods are much neater and smoother than is customary in hot climates. The land rose in gentle slopes from the very beach where watered, to the middle of the island, tho' the general course of its ascent was often interrupted by valleys of an easy descent, many of which wind irregularly through the country. These vallies, and the gradual swellings of the ground, which their different combinations gave rise to, were most beautifully diversified by the mutual encroachments of woods and lawns, which coasted each other, and traversed the island in large tracts. The woods consisted of tall and well spread trees, the greatest part of them celebrated for their aspect, or their fruit ; whilst the lawns were usually of a considerable breadth, their turf quite clean and uniform, it being composed of a very fine trefoil, which was intermixed with a variety of flowers. The woods too were in many places open, and free from all bushes and underwood, so that they terminated on the lawns with a well defined out-line, where neither shrubs nor weeds were to be seen ; but the neatness of the adjacent turf was frequently extended to a considerable distance, under the hollow shade formed by the trees. Hence arose a great number of the

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most elegant and entertaining prospects, according to the different blendings of these woods and lawns, and their various interfections with each other, as they spread themselves differently through the vallies, and over the slopes and declivities in which the place abounded. Nor were the allurements of Tinian confined to the excellency of its landscapes only since the fortunate animals, which during the greater part of the year, are the sole lords of this happy soil, partake in some measure of the romantic cast of the island, and are no small addition to its wonderful scenery; for the cattle, of which it is not uncommon to see the herds of some thousands feeding together in a large meadow, are certainly the most remarkable in the world; as they are all of them milk-white, except their ears, which are generally brown or black. And though there are no inhabitants here, yet the clamour and frequent parading of domestic poultry, which range the woods in great numbers, perpetually excite the idea of the neighbourhood of farms and villages, and greatly contribute to the chearfulness and beauty of the place. The cattle on Tinian we computed were at least ten thousand; we had no difficulty in getting near them, for they were not at all shy of us. Our first method of killing them was shooting them; but at last, when, by an accident to be hereafter recited, we were obliged to husband our ammunition, our men ran them down with ease. Their flesh was extremely well tasted, and was believed by us to be much more easily digested than any we had ever met with. The fowls too were exceeding good, and were likewise run down with little trouble; for they could scarce fly further than an hundred yards at a flight, and even that fatigued them to such a degree, that they could not readily rise again; so that, aided by the openness of the woods, we could at all times furnish ourselves with whatever number we wanted. Besides the cattle and the poultry, we found here abundance of wild hogs: these were most excellent food; but as they were a very fierce animal, we were obliged either to shoot them, or to hunt them with large dogs, which we found upon the place at our landing, and which belonged to the detachment which was then upon the island amassing provisions for the garrison of Guan. As these dogs had been purposely trained to the killing of the wild hogs, they followed us very readily, and hunted for us; but tho' they were a large bold breed, the hogs fought with so much fury, that they

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frequently destroyed them, whence we by degrees lost the greatest part of them.

This place was not only extremely grateful to us, from the plenty and excellency of its fresh provisions, but was as much perhaps to be admired on account of its fruits and vegetable productions, which were most fortunately adapted to the cure of the sea-scurvy, the disease which had so terribly reduced us. For in the woods there were inconceivable quantities of coconuts, with the cabbages growing on the same tree; besides guavaes, limes, sweet and sour oranges, and a kind of fruit peculiar to these islands, called by the Indians Rhymay, but by us the Bread Fruit, for it was constantly eaten by us during our stay upon the island, instead of bread, and so universally preferred to it, that no ship's bread was expended in that whole interval. It grew up a tree, which was somewhat lofty, and which towards the top divides into large and spreading branches. The leaves of this tree are of a remarkable deep green, are notched about the edges, and are generally from a foot to eighteen inches in length. The fruit itself is found indifferently on all parts of the branches; it is in shape rather elliptical than round; it is covered with a rough rind, and is usually seven or eight inches long; each of them grows singly, and not in clusters. This fruit is fittest to be used when it is full grown, but still green; in which state, after it is properly prepared by being roasted in the embers, its taste has some distant resemblance to that of an artichoke's bottom, and its texture is not very different, for it is soft and spongy. As it ripens it becomes softer and of a yellow colour, when it contracts a luscious taste and an agreeable smell, not unlike a ripe peach; but then it is esteemed unwholesome, and is said to produce fluxes. Besides the fruits already enumerated, there were many other vegetables extremely conducive to the cure of the malady we had long laboured under, such as water-melons, dandelion, creeping purslain, mint, scurvy-grass, and sorrel; all which, together with the fresh meats of the place, we devoured with great eagerness, prompted thereto by the strong inclination which, in scorbutick disorders, nature never fails of exciting for those powerful specifics.

It will be easily conceived from what hath been already said, that our cheer upon this island was in some degree luxurious; but I have not recited all the varieties of provision which we ~~have~~ indulged in. Indeed we thought it prudent totally to abstain
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from fish, the few we caught at our first arrival having surfeited those who eat of them; but considering how much we had been inured to that species of food, we did not regard this circumstance as a disadvantage, especially as the defect was so amply supplied by the beef, pork, and fowls already mentioned, and by great plenty of wild fowl; for it is to be remembered, that near the center of the island, there were two considerable pieces of fresh water, which abounded with duck, teal, and curlew: not to mention the whistling plover, which we found there in prodigious plenty.

It may now perhaps be wondered at, that an island so exquisitely furnished with the conveniencies of life, and so well adapted not only to the subsistence, but likewise to the enjoyment of mankind, should be entirely destitute of inhabitants, especially as it is in the neighbourhood of other islands, which in some measure depend upon this for their support. To obviate this difficulty, I must observe, that it is not fifty years since the island was depopulated. The Indians we had in our custody assured us, that formerly the three islands of Tinian, Rota, and Guam, were all full of inhabitants; & that Tinian alone contained thirty thousand souls: but a sickness raging amongst these islands, which destroyed multitudes of the people, the Spaniards, to recruit their numbers at Guam, which were extremely diminished by the mortality, ordered all the inhabitants of Tinian thither; where languishing for their former habitations, and their customary method of life, the greatest part of them in a few years died of grief. Indeed, independent of that attachment which all mankind have ever shown to the places of their birth and bringing up, it should seem from what has been already said, that there were few countries more worthy to be regretted than this of Tinian.

These poor Indians might reasonably have expected, at the great distance from Spain where they were placed, to have escaped the violence and cruelty of that haughty nation, so fatal to a large proportion of the whole human race: but it seems their remote situation could not protect them from sharing in the common destruction of the western world; all the advantage they received from their distance, being only to perish an age or two later it may perhaps be doubted, if the number of the inhabitants of Tinian, who are banished to Guam, and who died there pining for their native home, was so considerable as
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what we have related above; but, not to mention the concurrent assertion of our prisoners, and the commodiousness of the island, & its great fertility, there are still remains to be met with on the place, which show it to have been once extremely populous. For there are, in all parts of the island, many ruins of a very particular kind: these usually consist of two rows of square pyramidal pillars, each pillar being about six feet from the next, and the distance between the rows being about twelve feet; the pillars themselves are about five feet square at the base, and about thirteen feet high; and on the top of each of them there is a semi-globe, with the flat surface upwards; the whole of the pillars and semi-globe is solid, being composed of sand and stone cemented together, and plaistered over.

Having briefly recounted the conveniencies of this place, I must now observe that all these advantages were greatly enhanced by the healthiness of its climate, by the almost constant breezes which prevail there, and by the frequent showers which fell there; for these instead of the heavy continued rains which in some countries render great part of the year so unpleasant, were usually of a very short and almost momentary duration. Hence they were extremely grateful and refreshing, and perhaps one cause of the salubrity of the air, and of the extraordinary influence it was observed to have upon us, in increasing and invigorating our appetites and digestion. This effect was indeed remarkable, since those amongst our officers, who were at all other times spare and temperate eaters, who, besides a slight breakfast, used to make but one moderate repast a day, were here, in appearance, transformed into gluttons: for instead of one reasonable flesh meal, they were now scarcely satisfied with three, each of them too so prodigious in quantity, as would at another time have produced a fever or a surfeit. And yet our digestion so well corresponded to the keenness of our appetites, that we were neither disordered nor even loaded by this uncommon repletion; for after having, according to the custom of the island, made a large beef breakfast, it was not long before we began to consider the approach of dinner as a very desirable, though somewhat tardy, incident.

After giving these large encomiums on this island, in which, however, I conceive, I have not done it justice; it is necessary I should speak of those circumstances in which it is defective, whether in point of beauty or utility. And first, with respect

to its water, I must own, that before I had seen this spot, I did not conceive that the absence of running water, of which it is entirely destitute, could have been so well replaced by any other means as it is in this island: since, though there are no streams, yet the water of the wells and springs, which are to be met with every where near the surface, is extremely good; and in the midst of the island there are two or three considerable pieces of excellent water, the turf of whose banks was as clean, as even, and as regularly disposed, as if they had been basins purposely made for the decoration of the place. It must however be confessed, that with regard to the beauty of the prospects, the want of rills and streams is a very great defect, not to be compensated either by large pieces of standing water, or by the neighbourhood of the sea, tho' that, from the smallness of the island, generally makes a part of every extensive landscape.

As to the residence upon the island, the principal inconvenience attending it is the vast numbers of muscitos, and various other species of flies, together with an insect called a tick; this, tho' principally attached to the cattle, would yet frequently fasten upon our limbs and bodies, and if not perceived and removed in time, would bury its head under the skin, and raise a painful inflammation. We found here too centipedes and scorpions, which we supposed were venomous tho' none of us ever received any injury from them."

The anchoring-place, for there is but one, lies on the south-west side of the island; nor does it afford shelter sufficient against the western monsoons, when about the full and change of the moon, for then the wind veering to every point of the compass, blows with such impetuosity, that the stoutest cables are not proof against its force; and this was sufficiently experienced by the Centurion, which, notwithstanding all the care that had been taken to make her fast, was forced from her anchors and drove out to sea, with such of the men as had well recovered, under the command of lieutenant Saumarez; the commodore, who was himself sick of the scurvy, being at that time ashore, together with one hundred and thirteen of his people. It was very well that her leak had been searched out, and in some measure stopped, before this accident happened, or the consequences might have been much more than they proved to be. This misfortune fell out upon the 22d of September, in a night of excessive darkness, the ship having her sheet-anchor hanging

at one of her cables, her shrouds loose, her top-masts unrigged, her fore and main yards down, and not a gun lashed on board, nor a port-hole barred in. She laboured for nineteen days before she could regain her birth, of which she entirely despaired, having only one hundred and eight of her hands on board, negroes and Indians included.

The storm that drove the *Centurion* to sea, blew too hard to permit any of the people on shore to hear the guns she fired as signals of distress; and the glare of the lightening had prevented the explosions from being observed; so that, when at day-break it was perceived from the shore the ship was missing, there was great consternation amongst them: for much the greater part of them concluded she was lost, and intreated the commodore to send round the island to look after the wreck; and those who believed her safe, had scarcely an expectation that she would ever be able to make the island again, as the wind continued to blow strong at east, and they knew how poorly she was provided for struggling with a tempestuous gale. In either of these views their situation was indeed deplorable: for if the *Centurion* was lost, or incapable of returning, there appeared no possibility of ever getting off the island: as they were six hundred leagues from Macao, their nearest port: and masters of no other vessel than the Spanish bark, of about fifteen tun, which would not hold a fourth part of their number. The chance of being taken off the island by any other ship, was altogether desperate; as perhaps no European ship had ever anchored here before, and consequently madness to expect the like incidents should send another here in many ages to come: so that their desponding thoughts could only suggest to them the dismal prospect of spending the remainder of their days on this island, and bidding adieu for ever to their country, friends, families, and all domestic endearments.

They had besides all this, reason to apprehend that the governor of Guam, when he knew of their circumstances, might send a superior force to overpower them, and then, the best treatment they could expect would be to be detained prisoners for life; since, from the known policy of the Spaniards in these settlements, it was to be supposed, that the governor would make their want of commissions (all of them being left on board the *Centurion*) a pretext for treating them as pirates.

During these gloomy reflections, Mr. Anson, thought he behaved

behaved with composure and steadiness, doubtless underwent his share of disquietude. However, he soon projected a scheme to extricate himself and his men from their present situation, first communicating it to some of the most intelligent about him; and being satisfied as to its practicability, he then endeavoured to invigorate his men to a speedy prosecution of it. With this view, he represented to them the little probability there was to imagine the *Centurion* was lost; being of opinion they had all of them been better acquainted with sea-affairs than to indulge so chimerical a fright; he doubted not, if they would but seriously consider what such a ship could endure, that they would acknowledge the improbability of it: that he flattered himself she might return in a few days; but if not, the worst idea that could be formed was, that she was driven so far to the leeward, that she could not regain the island, and the consequence would be, that she must bear away for Macao on the coast of China: that he had formed a scheme of carrying them off the island, and of joining the *Centurion* again at Macao: that this scheme was, to haul the Spanish bark on shore, to saw her asunder, and to lengthen her twelve feet, sufficient to carry them all to China: that the carpenters agreed, this proposal was feasible, and that nothing was wanting to execute it but the unanimity of the whole body: to which he added, that he was ready to partake of the fatigue, and would expect nothing from any man but what he was willing to submit to; he concluded with representing to them the necessity of saving time, as it was expedient to begin the work immediately, and to take it for granted, that the *Centurion* would be unable to return; if she did, the loss would be only a few days application; if not, their situation, and the season required the utmost dispatch.

These remonstrances had not at first the effect Mr. Anson could have wished: he indeed raised their spirits, by shewing them the possibility of their getting away; but then, from their confidence in this resource, they grew negligent of their situation, and flattered themselves with the *Centurion's* return, which would prevent the commodore's scheme, a work of considerable labour: from hence some days intervened before the project fully took place; but at last, being convinced of the impossibility of the ship's return, they heartily engaged in the different tasks allotted them; and were as industrious as their commander could wish.

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Here I must digress, to relate an incident, which affected Mr. Anson more than all the preceding disasters. A few days after the ship was driven off, a sail was descried: a general joy ensued, every one supposing that it was the ship returning; but on a second sail appearing, they despaired, it being difficult to guess what they were. The commodore hastily pointed his glass towards them, and discovered them to be two boats; from whence he concluded, that the Centurion was gone to the bottom. This unexpected conjecture wrought on him so powerfully, that to conceal the effect, he instantly retired in private to his tent, where he passed some bitter moments, firmly believing, that the ship was lost.

However, this reflection soon vanished, on discovering that the two boats were Indian proas; and perceiving that they made for shore, he directed every appearance of suspicion to be removed, on purpose to seize the Indians in case they landed; but after the proas had stood in within a quarter of a mile of the shore, they suddenly lay to, and after a little time steered to the southward. Let us now return to the bark's enlargement.

The lengthening of the bark alone was attended with great difficulty, if we consider how they were prepared for such an undertaking. Indeed, were all the necessary materials to be had, the embarrassment would have been trifling; but part of these tools were to be made, and many of the materials were wanting, and consequently, no small degree of invention was necessary to supply all these defects. Should they complete the hull, this was but one article, and there were others of equal weight; the rigging it, the victualling it, and lastly, the navigating it for near two hundred leagues through unknown seas. In these particulars such obstacles occurred, that without the interposition of very extraordinary events, the whole enterprize would have proved abortive.

It fortunately fell out, that when the Centurion drove out to sea, the carpenters both of the Gloucester and of the Tryal, with their chests of tools, were on shore, and also the smith, with his forge and several of his tools; but unhappily his bellows was on board: so that he was incapable of working, and without his assistance their efforts were fruitless. They first tried to make him a pair of bellows, but the want of leather greatly puzzled them; however, as they had hides in plenty, and had found a hoghead of lime, which the Indians or Spaniards

had prepared for their own use, they tanned a few hides; and though the workmanship was but indifferent, yet the bellows answered the end tolerably well.

Whilst the smith prepared the necessary ironwork, others were employed in felling trees, and sawing them into planks; and as this was the most laborious task, the commodore, to encourage his people, wrought at it himself. But here a new difficulty arose, from the want of blocks and cordage sufficient to haul the bark on shore; notwithstanding, they resolved to get her up on rollers, because the body of the cocoa-nut tree was extremely well fitted for these, as its smoothness and circular turn required little labour and workmanship. Many of these trees were felled; and in the interim a dry dock was dug to receive the bark, and ways opened to the sea to facilitate the bringing her up. Besides those who were occupied about the enlargement of the bark, a party was constantly busied in killing and procuring provisions for the rest. And though in these various and dextrous employments, great confusion and delay might have been expected; yet good order and unanimity being once established, their preparations advanced apace. Indeed the want of spirituous liquors rendered the common men more tractable; for having neither wine nor brandy on shore, they drank the juice of the coco-nut, and this being not at all intoxicating, kept them very temperate.

The main work happily advancing, the officers began to consider on measures for the fitting out the bark. On consultation it was found, that the tents on shore, and the spare cordage accidentally left there by the Centurion, together with the sails already belonging to the bark, would rig her indifferent well. And as they had tallow in plenty, they proposed to pay her bottom with a mixture of tallow and lime, which was known to answer that purpose. One exception still interposed, which proved extremely inconvenient, and that was her size; for as they could not make her forty tun burthen, she would have been incapable of containing half the crew below deck, and consequently, would have been so top heavy, that if they were all ordered upon deck, there would be no small hazard of over-setting; but this was a difficulty not to be removed, as the size already proposed could not be augmented. The next essential point that occurred was, how to procure necessaries for their voyage; and here they were greatly perplexed, as they had
neither

neither grain nor bread of any kind, being obliged to live on bread-fruit, which would not keep at sea; and though they had live cattle enough, yet they wanted salt, nor would meat take salt in that climate. Indeed, they had preserved a small quantity of jerked beef, which they found upon their landing; but this was insufficient for a run of near six hundred leagues, and for the number of hands. It was at last resolved to put on board as many cocoa-nuts as they could, to be sparing of their jerked beef, and to supply their want of bread by rice; to obtain which, it was proposed, when the bark was fitted up, to make a descent on the island of Rota, where they were told, that the Spaniards had large plantations of rice cultivated by the Indians; but as force was required for this, their ammunition became their next care; and on enquiry, they had the mortification to find that their firelocks would be of little service to them, since all the powder that could be collected, by the strictest search, did not exceed ninety charges, which was considerably short of one a-piece to each of the company.

But the more alarming circumstance remains yet to be related. The form and equipment of the vessel was soon agreed on; from whence, it was not difficult to calculate the time necessary to complete her. This determined, it was reasonable to expect, that the officers would consider their course, and the land they were to make. These sad reflections introduced the discovery, that there was neither compass nor quadrant on the island. The commodore had brought a pocket compass on shore for his own use, but lieutenant Brett had borrowed it to determine the position of the adjacent islands, and had been driven to sea in the Centurion. And as to a quadrant, it could not be expected; since as it was of no use at land, there could be no reason for bringing it from on board. At last, in rumaging a chest belonging to the Spanish bark, they discovered a small compass, which, tho' little better than a school boy's toy, was to them an invaluable treasure. And a few days after, they met with a quadrant on the sea-shore, which had been thrown overboard amongst other lumber belonging to the dead; but on examination, it wanted vanes, and therefore in its present state altogether useless; however, it was not long before a person, through curiosity, pulling out the drawer of an old table which had been driven on shore, found therein some vanes which fitted

ted the quadrant very well, and upon trial by the known latitude of the place, answered to a sufficient degree of exactness.

Now all these obstacles being partly removed, the business advanced very successfully. The necessary iron work was in great forwardness, and the timbers and planks (which tho' defective in the sawing art, answered the purpose) were all prepared; so that on the 6th of October, being the 14th day from the departure of the ship, they hauled the bark on shore, and on the two succeeding days she was sawn asunder, though with the caution not to cut her planks: and her two parts being separated the proper distance from each other, and the materials all ready, they, the next day, being the 9th of October, went on vigorously; from whence they had all their future operations so fairly in view, that they were able to determine when she would be finished, and had accordingly fixed the 5th of November for their putting to sea. But a speedier and happier conclusion prevented their projects and labours; for on the 11th of October, in the afternoon, one of the Gloucester's men, standing on a hill in the middle of the island descried the Centurion at a distance, and descending with his utmost speed towards the landing-place, saw some of his comrades, to whom he hallooed out with great extasy, The ship! the ship! This being heard by Mr. Gordon, a Lieutenant of marines, (the fellow's transport confirming his report) directly hastened towards the place where the commodore and his men were at work, and being fresh and in breath easily out-run the Gloucester's man, and got before him to the commodore, who, on hearing this pleasing and unexpected news, threw down his axe, with which he was then at work, and by his extasy, for the first time, broke thro' the equable and unvaried character which he had hitherto preserved: whilst the others, instantly ran down to the sea-side in a kind of frenzy, eager to feast themselves with a sight they had so ardently longed after, and of which they had now for a considerable time despaired. By five in the evening the Centurion was visible in the offing to them all; and a boat being sent off with eighteen men to reinforce her, and with fresh meat and fruits for the refreshment of her crew, she, the next afternoon, happily cast anchor in the road, where the commodore immediately came on board her, and was received with the sincerest and heartiest acclamations.

Now

Now, it is high time that the reader, after the relation of the projects and employments of those left on shore, should be apprized of the fatigues and distresses to which those whom the Centurion carried off to sea, were exposed, during their absence from the island.

It has been already related, that it was the 22d of September, about one o'clock, in an extreme dark night, when by the united violence of a prodigious storm, and an exceeding rapid tide, they were driven from their anchors and forced to sea. Their condition then was truly deplorable: being in a leaky ship, with three cables in the hawse, to one of which hung their only remaining anchor: the shrouds were loose, and the top-masts unrigged, and they had struck their fore and main-yards close down, before the hurricane came on, so that there were no sails they could set, except the mizen. In this dreadful extremity, they had no more strength to navigate the ship, than an hundred and eight hands, several Negroes and Indians included: this was scarcely the fourth part of their complement; and of these the greater number were either boys, or such as had lately recovered from the scurvy. No sooner were they at sea, but by the violence of the storm, & the working of the ship, a great quantity of water made thro' their hawse-holes, ports, and scuppers, which encreased their leak, and rendered their pumps alone a sufficient employment; though they knew that this leakage, if a short time neglected, would inevitably destroy them, yet other dangers occurring, lessened this, for imagining, that they were driving directly on the neighbouring island of Aguiguan; and as they had lowered their main and fore-yards close down, they had no sails they could set up but the mizen, which was altogether insufficient to clear them of this imminent peril. Urged by this emergency, they immediately applied to work, endeavouring with the utmost efforts to heave up the main and fore-yards, in hopes that, if they could but be enabled to make use of their lower canvass, they might possibly weather the island, and thereby save themselves from this impending shipwreck. But after full three hours ineffectual labour, the jeers broke, and the men being quite jaded, were obliged, by mere debility, to desist, and quietly to expect their fate. They imagined themselves to be driven just upon the shore, and the night was so extremely dark, and that they expected no other discovery of the island than by striking upon

upon it; so that the belief of their destruction, and the uncertainty of the point of time when, occasioned them to pass several hours, under the most serious apprehensions that each succeeding moment would be the last. Nor did these continued terrors end, but with the day-break, when with great transport they perceived, that the island thus dreaded was at a considerable distance, and that a strong northern current had been the cause of their preservation.

The violent storm which forced them from Tinian, did not abate till three days after, and then they swayed up the fore-yard, & began to heave up the main-yard, but the jeers broke again and killed one of their men, and prevented any further proceeding. The next day, being the 26th of September, a most severe fatigue ensued, for in these exigencies no rank or office exempted any person from the manual application & bodily labour of a common sailor. The business of this day was to heave up the sheet-anchor, which they had hitherto dragged at their bows with two cables an end. This was a work of great importance to their future preservation: for exclusive of the impediment it would be to their navigation, & hazard to their ship, if they attempted to make sail, they had this most interesting consideration to animate them, that it was the only one they had left, and without securing it, they should be under the utmost difficulties whenever they fell in with the land; and therefore, being fully satisfied of the consequence of this, they laboured at it with the severest application for twelve hours, till they brought the anchor in sight; but it growing dark, and they being excessively fatigued, were obliged to desist, till the next morning; and then, refreshed by the benefit of a night's rest, they completed it.

It was the 27th of September, that is, five days after their departure, before they had secured their anchor; they the same day got up their main-yard, so that having now partly conquered the distress and disorder which they were involved in at their first driving out to sea, were enabled to make use of their canvases; and having set their courses, for the first time stood to the eastward, in hopes of regaining the island of Tinian, and joining their commodore in a few days; since by their accounts, they were only forty-seven leagues distant to the south-west. On the first day of October, having then run the distance necessary for making the island according to their reckoning,

loning, they were in full expectation of seeing it: but here they were unhappily disappointed, and thereby convinced that a current had driven them considerably to the west-ward. This discovery threw them into a new perplexity; for not being able to judge how much they had deviated, and consequently how long they might still be at sea, they were under great apprehension that their stock of water would fail; being doubtful of the quantity they had on board, finding many of their casks half leaked out. However, they were delivered from their uncertainty the next day, having then a sight of the island of Guam; and hence they computed that the currents had driven them forty-four leagues to the westward of our accounts. Being now satisfied of their situation, they kept plying to the eastward, tho' with excessive labour; for the wind continuing fixed in the eastern board, they were obliged to tack often, and the crew was so weak, that, without the assistance of every one on board, it was not in their power to veer the ship about. This severe employment lasted till the 11th of October, being the nineteenth day after their departure; when arriving in the offing of Tinian, they were reinforced from the shore, and on the evening of the same day, to their inexpressible joy, came to an anchor in the road.

On the 14th she was drove out to sea again, leaving about seventy of her hands ashore; however, she made the island again on the 19th, when all hands being ordered on board, with such a supply of water, fruits, and refreshments as they could suddenly collect, they got under sail, steering for Macao in China.

It was now the 21st of October, and the eastern monsoon being settled, and blowing right astern, they went at the rate of forty or fifty leagues a day; tho' as the ship work'd greatly, and her leaks required that the pumps should be kept constantly going, the people were very much fatigued: nevertheless they made no complaint, being in pretty good health. November the 9th they made the main land of China, and not rightly knowing their course, lay by for that night, and in the morning were agreeably surprized to find themselves surrounded by fishing-boats, which spread over the sea beyond the utmost stretch of the eye; and tho' there were three or five men on board every one of them, the commodore could not by signs, by pronouncing the word Macao, nor by shewing a quantity of dollars,

dollars, induce any one of them to come on board and pilot him; for the inattention they seemed to pay every thing but their employment is almost incredible.

On the 16th, Mr. Anson perceiving a boat a-head blow a horn and wave a red flag, looked upon it as a signal of some fort intended for him; but in this he found himself mistaken, it being a signal displayed by the commodore of the fishery, to order all the boats to leave fishing and retire to shore, which they all obeyed quickly. It was a little vexatious to them not to be able to get a pilot amidst so many naval people; however, they continued their course through many guts formed by small islands and little rocks, following the best instructions of former navigators, for there was no body in the *Centurion* who knew any thing of the coast. About four in the morning of the 9th, a Chinese pilot put on board, and told them, in broken Portuguese, that for 30 dollars he would carry the ship into Macao; which being paid him, they proceeded in their course: and now as they went pilots encreased upon them, soliciting employment, and producing certificates of their abilities, signed by many European captains. About ten o'clock in the morning of the 12th they came to the harbour of Macao, a small island lying at the mouth of the river Canton, in the hands of the Portuguese, who have a governor here, so very trifling in estimation that he is subservient entirely to the mandarine, or neighbouring Chinese governor, who sends him and his garrison their daily allowance of provision; so that upon the least dislike it is in the power of this superintendant to starve and dispossess them. Mr. Anson, being determined to support the honour of the British flag, was resolved not to submit to the payment of the duties exacted by the Chinese from trading vessels; men of war having immunities of that nature in every civilized port. For this reason the Portuguese governor advised him not to enter the river Canton, where the usual demand would certainly be made upon him, but rather to heave down and careen at Typa, an obscure but safe harbour, formed by a number of islands, about six miles from Macao: and if Mr. Anson readily acquiesced to this instruction, it was because he feared involving the European ships in the dispute that must have certainly arisen from his refusing to comply with this custom, which it was probable, would never be demanded of him at Typa. His tenderness for the merchants had led him to

to consult with them the manner in which it was necessary for him to address the viceroy of Canton, for a supply of provisions and hands to assist him in heaving down his ship. They referred him to some Chinese agents, who, after having cajoled him from day to day with promises of laying the state of his account before the viceroy, and settling matters in his favour, at length, when he had lost more than a month in expectation, they fairly threw off the mask, and being pressed, declared they neither would address the viceroy, nor did they dare to do it, he being too great a man for them to pretend to approach. He now perceived too late that he had been wrong in consulting so much the interest of the East India company, and immediately wrote a letter to the viceroy, setting forth that he was commander in chief of a squadron of British ships of war which had been cruising upon the Spaniards, with whom the king his master was at war, in the South Seas, upwards of two years; that his ship was obliged to put in here to stop a leak, and supply herself with provisions and necessaries; in all which wants he craved his excellency's assistance.

The hoppo, chief officer of the customs, at first refused to take charge of this letter; but finding that the commodore was determined upon sending it, and resented the refusal, he begged to be entrusted with it; and in a day or two after, a mandarine of the first rank, with two of an inferior class, came along-side of the Centurion, with a very numerous train of attendants, and a good band of music. The Centurion's boat was sent to bring the principal mandarine on board. He was governor of the city of Janson, and to all appearance a man of good sense, and more integrity than the Chinese are generally allowed to have. He brought with him two carpenters, who examined the state of the ship very carefully, but were particularly exact in viewing the leak. He appeared much surprized at the weight and size of the Centurion's cannon, for a ship of such force was perhaps what had never been seen in this part of the world before; nor did Mr. Anson neglect to make a proper use of his admiration, which it was plain was not without its mixture of terror. He expatiated upon the strength of his vessel, and observed that there could not be a stronger indication of his mildness than his thus civilly requesting such necessities as he stood in need of, when it was plain that he was sufficiently powerful to have taken them by force: at the same time he desired that orders might be given for a daily supply of provision to be put on board him, otherwise his men might be reduced to the necessity of turning cannibals, and feeding on human flesh; an extremity in which they certainly would prefer the plump Chinese to the flesh of their own emaciated messmates. This discourse had its desired effect; the mandarine allowed the truth

of every thing Mr. Anson advanced, promised he should have every necessary assistance, as soon as the state of his circumstances had been considered by a council of mandarines at Canton, which being but matter of form, should be done directly: in the mean time he ordered one of his attendants to see a certain quantity of provisions, specified in writing by Mr. Anson, put every day on board the Centurion; and this injunction was exactly complied with. Preliminaries being properly adjusted, the commodore gave them an entertainment, at which they made but an awkward figure, not knowing in what manner to use the knives and forks that were laid before them; so that to ease them, one of the commodore's attendants cut their meat for them in bits. They expressed a strong dislike to beef, which was one of the dishes, founded perhaps upon a superstition that prevails much among the pagans of India. However they might flinch at the meat, which they did not seem greatly to relish, they stuck close to the liquor; and the mandarine, having helped to dispatch four or five bottles of frontinac and one of citron-water, departed without seeming in the least affected therewith, having received a handsome present, as is the custom of China. Several days elapsed after this conference, without its producing any effect whatsoever; however, the commodore understood that this delay was occasioned by the intrigues of a Frenchman, who endeavoured underhand to postpone as much as possible Mr. Anson's affairs, fearing that in case the Centurion should be allowed any particular distinction, as bearing the king of Great Britain's commission, the French traders would lose part of their consideration, having always pretended to be ships of war.

At length, on the 6th of January, after great debates in the council of Canton, the governor of Janfon sent down the viceroy of Canton's warrant for refitting the Centurion, and supplying all her wants; in consequence of which warrant several smiths and carpenters immediately came on board to offer their service; of each a sufficient number was immediately retained, none of whom could be persuaded to work by the day; but the carpenters agreed to do every thing that was wanting to the ship, and to set her all to rights, for six hundred pounds; at first they had demanded a thousand: the smiths also bargained to furnish small iron work at three pounds per hundred, and the large at two pounds six and sixpence. Two proper vessels, called junks in this country, having been provided for that purpose, the ship was immediately hove down; and as the Chinese work but slowly, though with great ingenuity, it was the beginning of April before she was fitted for sea: during which time the Chinese pressed her departure very much, seeming to care very little for such a powerful company; powerful in appearance to wretches

wretches who are naturally poor spirited and timid, yet in reality very far from being so when the weakness of the ship's company is considered, though it was there reinforced with twenty-three Lascars, or Indian sailors, and a few Dutch, to the amount of twenty-three.

April the 6th, the Centurion weighed from Typa, warping to the south; on the 15th she got into the Macao road, taking in her water as she passed along; and on the 19th, all her business being completed, she stood out to sea.

C H A P. VIII.

The Centurion puts out to sea, and takes the Manila galeon; carries her to China; occurrences till the quitting that coast; Mr. Anson's happy arrival at Spithead.

THE commodore was now at sea, with his ship refitted, his stores replenished, and good stock of provisions: his crew too was reinforced; for he entered twenty-three men at Macao, the greatest part of them Lascars, and the rest Dutch. He gave out at Macao, that he was bound to Batavia, and though the westerly monsoon was set in, when that passage is believed impracticable, yet, by the confidence he had in the strength of his ship, and the dexterity of his hands, he had persuaded his own crew, and the people at Macao, that he proposed to try this unusual experiment; so that there were letters sent on board him by the inhabitants of Canton and Macao for Batavia.

But his design was quite different: for he supposed, that instead of one annual ship, there would be this year, probably, two; since, by being before Acapulco, he had hindered one of them from putting to sea the preceding season. He therefore resolved again to risque the casualties of the Pacific ocean, and to cruize for these returning vessels off Cape Espiritu Santo: And as June is generally the month they arrive there, he doubted not being time enough to intercept them. It is true, they were stout vessels, mounting forty-four guns, carrying five hundred hands, and might be expected to return together; and he had but two hundred and twenty-seven hands on board, some of whom were boys. But this did not deter him, as he knew his ship to be better fitted for an engagement than theirs, and as he had reason to expect that his men would exert themselves, when they had in view the wealth of these galeons.

This project he had resolved on ever since his leaving the coast of Mexico. And the greatest mortification he received, from

from the various delays in China, was his apprehension of being so long retarded as to let the galleons escape. At Macao it was incumbent on him to keep these views secret; for there being mutual connexions between that port and Manila, he was afraid, that, if his designs were discovered, intelligence would be sent to Manila, and measures taken to prevent the galleons from falling into his hands. But being now at sea, he called all his people on the quarter-deck, and told them of his resolution to cruize for the Manila ships: he said he should chuse a station, where he could not fail of meeting them; and tho' they were well manned, yet, if his people behaved with spirit, he was certain he should prove too hard for them both, and one of them could not fail of being taken: he added, that many ridiculous tales had been propagated about the strength of these ships, and their being impenetrable to cannon shot; that these fictions had been invented to palliate the cowardice of those who had formerly engaged them. For his own part, he assured them, that he would fight them so near, that his bullets, instead of being stopped by their sides, should go through them both.

This speech was received with great joy. No sooner had he ended, than they expressed their approbation, by three cheers: and declared they would succeed, or perish, whenever they had an opportunity. Immediately hope, which had subsided, was again revived; and they persuaded themselves, that they should yet be repaid the price of their fatigues, and should return home with the spoils of the enemy. For relying on the commodore, that they should meet with the galleons, they were too sanguine to doubt a moment of mastering them. This confidence was so spread thro' the ship's company, that the commodore, who had taken some Chinese sheep to sea with him, enquiring of his butcher, why he had lately seen no mutton at his table, and asking him if all the sheep were killed? the fellow seriously replied, there were indeed two sheep left, but that he proposed to keep those for the entertainment of the general of the galleons.

When the Centurion left Macao, she stood to the westward; and on the first of May, they saw part of the island of Formosa; and, steering to the southward, on the 4th of May, were in the latitude of the Bashee islands. They then stood between the S. and S. W. for Cape Espiritu Santo; and, the 20th of May, discovered that Cape. As it was known that there were sentinels placed upon it to make signals to the Acapulco ship, the commodore tacked, and ordered the gallant sails to be taken in, to prevent being discovered.

It was the last of May, when they arrived off this cape; and, the month of June being that in which the Manila ships are expected,

pected, the Centurion's people were now waiting with the utmost impatience for the happy crisis which was to ballance the account of all their calamities. The commodore ordered the crew almost every day to be exercised in working of the guns, and in the use of their small arms. This was practised, at every convenient season during his voyage; and the advantages he received from it, in his engagement with the galeon, were a full recompence for all his care. Indeed, there are few particulars of a commander's duty of more importance: since it must be confessed, that in two ships of war, equal in number of men and guns, the disproportion of strength, arising from a greater or less dexterity in the use of their great guns and small arms, is what can scarcely be ballanced by any circumstances whatever. But to return, it was the last of May, when the Centurion arrived off Cape Espiritu Santo; and consequently the next day the month began in which the ships were expected. The commodore therefore made all necessary preparations for receiving them. All this time too he was very solicitous to keep at such a distance as not to be discovered. But it hath been since learnt, that he was seen from the land; and advice of him was sent to Manila, where the merchants were alarmed, and the governor was applied to, who undertook to fit out two ships of thirty two, one of twenty, and two sloops of ten guns each, to attack the Centurion. With this view some of these vessels weighed; but the principal ship not being ready, the commerce and the governor disagreed, so that the enterprize was laid aside. The discovery of the Centurion was very extraordinary; since the pitch of the Cape is not high, and she commonly kept from ten to fifteen leagues distant; though once, by an indraught of the tide, they found themselves in the morning within seven leagues of land.

As the month of June advanced, the impatience of the crew increased daily. And no better idea can be given of their eagerness on this occasion, than by copying a few paragraphs from the journal of an officer, as it will be a more natural picture of the attachment of their thoughts to the business of their cruise, than can be given by any other means.

"May 31, Exercising our men at their quarters, in great expectation of meeting with the galeons very soon, this being the eleventh of June, their sile."

"June 3, Keeping in our stations, and looking out for the galeons."

"June 5, Begin now to be in great expectation, this being the middle of June, their sile."

"June 11, Begin to grow impatient at not seeing the galeons."

"June 13, The wind having blown fresh easterly for the
" forty-

" forty-eight hours past, gives us great expectations of seeing galeons soon."

" June 15, Cruizing on and off, and looking out strictly."

" June 19, This being the last day of June, N. S. the galeons, if they arrive at all, must appear soon."

From these samples it is evident, how much the treasure of the galeons had engrossed their imagination, and how they passed the latter part of their cruise, when the arrival of those vessels was dwindled to probability only, and that probability became each hour more doubtful. However, on the 20th of June they were relieved from their uncertainty; for, at sun-rise, they discovered a sail from the mast head. On this a general joy spread through the whole ship. The commodore instantly stood towards her, and at half an hour after seven they saw her from the Centurion's deck; at which time the galeon fired a gun, and took in her top-gallant sails: this was supposed to be a signal to her consort, to hasten her up; and therefore the Centurion fired a gun to leeward, to amuse her. The commodore was surprised to find, that the galeon did not change her course; for he hardly believed, that she knew his ship to be the Centurion, and resolved to fight him, as afterwards appeared.

About noon they were little more than a league distant from the galeon, and could fetch her wake, so that she could not now escape; and, no other ship appearing, it was believed they had been separated. Soon after, the galeon hauled up her fore-sail, and brought to under top-sails, with her head to the northward. Mr. Anson had prepared all things for an engagement, and taken every possible measure, both for the most effectual exertion of his small strength, and for avoiding the confusion and tumult, too common in actions of this kind. He picked out thirty of his best marksmen, whom he distributed into his tops, and who fully answered his expectation. As he had not hands enough to quarter a sufficient number to each gun, he, on his lower tire, fixed only two to each gun, who were to be solely employed in loading it, whilst the rest of his people were divided into gangs, who were continually moving about the decks, to run out and fire such guns as were loaded. By this method he was enabled to make use of all his guns; and instead of broad-sides, with intervals between, he kept up a constant fire without intermission; whence he doubted not to procure very signal advantages, as it is common with the Spaniards to fall down when a broad-side is preparing, and to continue in that posture till it is given; after which they rise, work their guns, and fire with great briskness, till another is ready: but the firing gun by gun rendered this practice impossible.

The Centurion thus prepared, nearing the galeon a pace, there happened a little afternoon, some squalls of wind and

rain

rain, which often obscured the galeon from their sight; but whenever it cleared up, they observed her resolutely lying to. At one o'clock, the Centurion hoisted her broad pendant, she being then within gun-shot of the enemy; and the Commodore perceiving them to have neglected clearing their ship, as he saw them throwing over-board cattle and lumber, he fired upon them with the chase-guns, to prevent them from compleating it, tho' his directions had been not to engage till within pistol shot. The galeon returned the fire with her stern-chace; and, the Centurion getting her sprit-sail yard fore and aft, that she might be ready for boarding, the Spaniards, in bravado, rigged their sprit-sail yard fore and aft likewise. Soon after, the Centurion came a-breast of the galeon within pistol-shot, keeping to leeward of them, with a view of preventing their putting before the wind, and gaining the port of Jalapay. And now the engagement began in earnest, and, at first, Mr. Anson over-reached the galeon, and lay on her bow; where, by the wideness of his ports, he traversed almost all his guns upon the enemy, whilst she could only bring a part of her's to bear. On the commencement of the action, the mats, with which the galeon had stuffed her netting, took fire, and burnt violently. This accident threw the enemy into the utmost terror, & also alarmed the commodore; for he feared the galeon might be burnt, and he himself too might suffer by her driving on board him. At last the Spaniards freed themselves, by cutting away the netting, and tumbling the mats into the sea. All this time the Centurion kept her first position, firing with regularity and briskness; whilst the galeon's deck lay open to her top-men, who, having driven the Spaniards from their tops, made great havock with their small arms, killing or wounding every officer but one that appeared on the quarter deck, and wounding the general of the galeon himself.

Thus the action proceeded for half an hour; when the Centurion lost the superiority of situation, and was close along side of her enemy, who continued to fire briskly for an hour longer; even in this posture the commodore's grape-shot swept their decks so effectually, that they began to fall into disorder, especially as the general, who animated them to continue the fight, could no longer exert himself. The ships were now so near, that some of the Spanish Officers were seen running about with much assiduity, to prevent the desertion of their men from their quarters; but all their efforts were vain; for after having fired five or six guns with more judgment than usual, they yielded up the contest; and her colours being fished off the ensign staff, she struck the standard at her main top-gallant mast-head; the person who was employed to perform this

this office, having been in great peril of being killed, had not the commodore given express orders to desist from firing.

Thus the Centurion was possessed of this prize, amounting to near a million and a half of dollars. She was called the *Nuestra Señora de Cabadonga*, commanded by Don Jeronimo de Mentero, a Portuguese, the most approved officer of any employed in that service. She was much larger than the Centurion, had five hundred and fifty men, and thirty six guns mounted for action, besides twenty eight pedreros in her gun-wale, quarters and tops, each of which carried a four pound ball. She was well furnished with small arms, and provided against boarding, both by her close quarters, and a strong network, laced over her waist, and defended by half pikes. She had sixty-seven killed, and eighty four wounded, whilst the Centurion had only two killed, and a lieutenant and sixteen wounded, all of whom but one recovered.

But their joy was near being suddenly damped by a most tremendous incident: for no sooner had the galeon struck, than one of the lieutenants coming to Mr. Anson, whispered him that the Centurion was dangerously on fire. He received this news without any apparent emotion, and taking care not to alarm his people, gave orders for extinguishing the fire, which was done very soon. Some cartridges had been blown up between decks, and the blast communicated its flame to some oakum in the after-hatch-way, where the great smother of the oakum occasioned the apprehension of a more extended conflagration: all hopes too of escaping on board the prize instantly vanish'd; for at the same moment the galeon fell on board the Centurion, tho' she was cleared without doing or receiving any considerable damage.

The commodore's first lieutenant, before night, sent on board the Centurion all the prisoners, except such as were most proper to be retained to assist in navigating the galeon. And now he learnt, that the other ship, which he had blocked up in the port of Acapulco, the preceeding year, instead of returning in company with the present prize, had set sail from Acapulco much sooner than usual, and probably got into the port of Manila before the Centurion arrived off cape Espiritu Santo; so that Mr. Anson had great reason to regret his loss of time, which prevented him from taking two prizes instead of one.

When the action was ended, he resolved to make the best of his way for the river of Canton, being in the interim employed in securing his prisoners, and removing the treasure into the Centurion. The last of these operations could not be postponed; for as the navigation to Canton was through unknown seas, where, from the season of the year, bad weather might be expected, it was necessary the treasure should be sent
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on board the Centurion, which ship was doubtless better provided against all the casualties of winds and seas, than the galeon: Securing the prisoners was a matter of still more consequence, as the possession of the treasure, and the lives of the captors depended thereon. This article gave the commodore much trouble, for they were above double the number of his own people; and some of them, when they were come on board the Centurion, and had observed how she was manned, could not help expressing themselves with indignation, to be thus beaten by a handful of boys. The method taken to hinder them from rising, was by placing all but the officers & the wounded in the hold, where two hatch-ways were left open: but then there was a square partition of thick planks, which enclosed each hatch-way on the lower deck, these funnels communicated the air to the hold, and at the same time, added to the security of the ship; for they being seven feet high, it would have been difficult for the Spaniards to clamber up; and to augment that difficulty, swivel guns were planted at each funnel, and a centinel was posted there, ready to fire amongst them, in case of disturbance. Their officers were all lodged in the first lieutenant's cabin, under a guard; and every prisoner was apprised, that any disturbance would be punished with instant death. And, that the Centurion's people might be at all times prepared, if any tumult should happen, arms were kept loaded, whilst the men went armed with cutlasses and pistols; and no officer ever pulled off his cloaths, or, when he lay down, omitted to have his arms always ready by him.

Thus employed in securing the prize, the commodore stood for the river of Canton; and, on the 30th of June, got sight of cape Delangano. The next day he made the Bashee Islands, and the wind being north, stood between Grafton and the Monmouth Islands, though in getting through the sea had a dangerous aspect; but the ships got through safe, the prize keeping a head; the agitation of the sea, being occasioned by a strong tide. From hence the Centurion steering her course for the river of Canton, on the 8th of July discovered the island of Supata. This island of Supata they made to be an hundred and thirty-nine leagues distant from Grafton's island. And, on the 11th, having taken on board two pilots, they anchored off the city of Macao.

The particulars of the cargo of the galeon were now ascertained: she had on board 1,313,843 pieces of eight, and 35,682 ounces of silver, some cochineal, and other commodities. And this being the commodore's last prize, it appears, that the treasure taken by him was not short of 400,000 l. independent of ships and merchandize, burnt or destroyed, which by the most reasonable estimation, could not amount to

less than 600,000 l. so that the whole damage done to the enemy by this Squadron, was equal to a million sterling. To which, if we add their great expence in fitting out Pizarro, together with the loss of their ships of war; the total will amount to an exorbitant sum.

The commodore proceeded with his prize for Canton; and on the 14th of July cast anchor short of the Bocca Tigris. Whilst the Centurion and her prize were at anchor, a boat with an officer was sent off from the Mandarin, directing the forts to examine what the ships were, and whence they came. Mr. Anson informed the officer his own ship was a man of war belonging to the king of Great Britain, and the other his prize; that he was going into Canton river to shelter himself against the hurricanes, and when the monsoon shifted, he should sail for England. After the officer had finished his enquiries, he desired to leave two custom house officers behind; when the commodore told him, that though as a man of war, he had nothing to do with customs or duties, yet he would permit his people to be left, who might be witnesses how strictly he should comply with his instructions. The officer was amazed when Mr. Anson mentioned being exempted from the duties, and said the Emperor's duty must be paid by all ships: And it is therefore supposed, that private directions were given to the Chinese pilot, not to carry the commodore through the Bocca Tigris. Accordingly, the pilot refused to take charge of the ship, till he had leave; yet, as it was necessary to get through immediately, for fear of the bad weather, the commodore ordered the pilot to carry him by the forts, threatening that, if the ship ran a-ground, he would instantly hang him up. The pilot, awed by his threats, carried the ship through, the forts not attempting to dispute her passage.

On the 16th of July the commodore sent an officer to Canton, with a letter to the viceroy, informing him of the Centurion's putting into that port; and that he soon proposed to repair to Canton, to visit his excellency. The officer was civilly received, and was promised an answer should be sent the next day. Mean time Mr. Anson gave leave to some of the officers of the galeon to go to Canton, they engaging to return in two days. When they got there, the regency enquired particularly how they came into Mr. Anson's power. It happened that the prisoners were honest enough to declare, that they had proposed the taking of the Centurion, but that the event had been quite contrary to their hopes. And, as to their usage, they frankly acknowledged they had been treated much better than they should have treated the commodore, had he fallen into their hands. This confession had great weight with the Chinese, who, till then, had suspected Mr. Anson's
morals.

morals, and considered him as a lawless free-booter, not one properly commissioned for the revenge of public injuries.

Tho' the Chinese had no reason to doubt the account given them, yet two circumstances appeared to them so singular, as to deserve a fuller explanation; one was the great disproportion of men between the Centurion and her prize; the other the humanity with which the prisoners were treated. The Spaniards were therefore asked, how they came to be subdued by so inferior a force; how it happened, that they were not put to death, when they fell into the hands of the English. To the first, the Spaniards answered, that the Centurion being intended for war only, had great superiority in the size of her guns, and in many other respects, over the galeon, a vessel fitted out principally for traffic: As to the second question they replied, that among the nations of Europe, it was not common to put to death those who submitted. These replies fully satisfied the Chinese, and wrought very powerfully in the commodore's favour.

On the 20th of July, three mandarines, with a vast retinue, came on board the Centurion, and delivered the viceroy of Canton's order for a daily supply of provisions, and at the same time they delivered him a message from the viceroy, in answer to the letter. The mandarines then began to talk about the duties to be paid by his ships; but the commodore told them, he would never submit to such a demand; that as he neither brought any merchandize thither, nor intended to carry any away, he could not be deemed within the meaning of the emperor's orders, adding, that no duties were ever demanded of men of war, and that his master expressly forbid him to make any acknowledgement for anchoring in any port whatever.

The mandarines then said, they had another thing to mention: this was a request to the commodore, to release the prisoners he had taken on board the galeon. Mr. Anson was extremely desirous to get rid of them, having sent many of them to Macao, and those who remained were a great incumbrance to him. However to inance the favour, he raised some difficulties; but at last told the Mandarines, that he would release the prisoners, whenever they would order boats to fetch them off. This matter being thus adjusted, the mandarines departed; and two Chinese junks soon after took them on board, and carried them to Macao.

It would be an endless task should we undertake to enumerate the many artifices, frauds & extortions, practised by this interested race upon the commodore, & his people, from his coming into the river, Canton in July, to the 13th of October, when, being disappointed of a quantity of biscuit, and other provisions that had

had been promised him, as well as amused with numberless false stories, he determined in person to visit the viceroy at his capital, taking such effectual measures for securing the Centurion and her vast wealth from the machinations of these treacherous and lucrative people, that they did not dare, during his absence, to contrive any thing that could tend to his disturbance.

Leaving captain Brett to command the vessel, he embarked on board his own boat for Canton, rowed by eighteen of his hands dressed uniformly in scarlet jackets, blue silk waistcoats, caps of the same stuff trimmed with silver buttons, and silver badges: he was attended by the supercargoes of the English, Swedish and Danish ships, and besides his own, the boats of all the trading vessels; so that his retinue had a very grand appearance. In his passage he was saluted by all the European ships then lying in Wampo, their usual place of mooring, the French excepted. Mr. Anson had not been long at Canton before he saw his bread and other provisions, for which he had bargained and paid indeed before-hand, in great forwardness; and as he was upon the spot, took proper measures for obviating the delays which the contractors would otherwise have made. While he remained in this city a fire broke out; on the first alarm of which, Mr. Anson went thither with his officers, and his boat's crew, to aid the Chinese. He found that it had began in a sailer's shed, and by the slightness of the buildings, and the awkwardness of the Chinese, it was getting head apace. He perceived, however, that by pulling down the adjacent sheds it might be extinguished; and observing that it was running along a cornice, which blazed fiercely, and would soon communicate the flame to a great distance, he ordered his people to tear away that cornice: This was attempted, and would have been soon executed; but, he was told, that, as there was no Mandarin there, the Chinese would make him answerable for whatever should be pulled down by his command. Hereupon Mr. Anson desisted; and sent his people to the English factory, to secure the company's effects; as it was easy to foresee no distance could be a protection against such a fire; since all the time the Chinese contented themselves with viewing it, and now and then holding one of their idols near it, which they expected would check its progress. At last, a Mandarin came out of the city, with four or five hundred firemen: these made some feeble efforts to pull down the neighbouring houses; but the fire had much extended itself, and was got amongst the merchants warehouses; & the Chinese firemen were incapable of checking its violence; so that it was feared the whole city would be destroyed. In this general confusion, the viceroy came thither, and Mr. Anson was sent to, and was told he might take

take any measures he should think most prudent. Upon this he went thither, with about forty of his people, who exerted themselves after such a manner, as in that country was altogether unexampled. Behaving with that agility and boldness peculiar to them, they were rather animated than deterred by the flames and falling buildings amongst which they wrought; whence it was not uncommon to see them tumble to the ground on the roofs, and the ruins of houses which they brought down under them. By their resolution and activity the fire was soon extinguished, to the amazement of the Chinese; it fortunately happened, that the buildings being on one floor, and the materials slight, the seamen escaped with no other injuries than some bruises.

The fire did great mischief during the time it continued; having consumed many shops and streets full of goods, so that the damage amounted to an immense sum.

Whilst the English were labouring at the fire, several of the Chinese merchants came to Mr. Anson, to desire that he would let each of them have one of his men, to guard their warehouses, which, they feared would be pillaged in the tumult. Their request was granted; and all the men behaved much to the satisfaction of the merchants, who highly applauded their diligence and fidelity. The next morning, the principal inhabitants waited on the commodore to thank him; frankly owning to him, that he had preserved their city from being consumed. Soon after a message came from the viceroy, appointing the 30th of November for an audience; which resolution of the viceroy, in a matter that had been so long agitated in vain, was owing to the signal services performed by Mr. Anson and his people at the fire.

The fixing the audience was a circumstance with which Mr. Anson was much pleased; as he was satisfied the Chinese would not have determined this point, without having agreed to give up the duties they claimed. For, as they knew the Commodore's sentiments, it would have been a piece of imprudence to have admitted him to an audience only to contest with him. Being therefore perfectly easy about the result of his visit, he made the necessary preparations against the day; and engaged Mr. Flint to act as interpreter in the conference.

At ten o'clock in the morning, on the day appointed, a mandarine acquainted the commodore, that the viceroy was prepared, on which the commodore and his retinue set out. When he entered the outer gate, he found a guard of soldiers ready to receive him; who attended him to the great parade of the emperor's palace. In this parade, a body of troops, to the number of ten thousand, were drawn up under arms, who made a very fine appearance, being all new clothed for this ceremony.

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Mr. Anson passed through the middle of them, and was conducted to the hall of audience, where the viceroy was seated in the emperor's chair of state, all his mandarines attending. There was a seat prepared for the commodore, where he was placed, and was ranked the third from the viceroy, there being above him only the chiefs of the law, and treasury, who have precedence of all military officers. When Mr. Anson was seated, he addressed himself to the viceroy, and after reciting the various methods he had taken to get an audience; added, that he imputed the delays he had met with to the insincerity of those he had employed. On this the viceroy interrupted the interpreter, and bid him assure Mr. Anson, that the first knowledge they had of his being at Canton, was from that letter.

Mr. Anson then told him, that the subjects of Great Britain, trading to China, had complained to him of the impositions of the merchants and custom-house officers, to which they were often necessitated to submit, because of the difficulty of getting access to the mandarines; that it was his duty, as an officer of the King of Great Britain, to lay before him these grievances, which he hoped the viceroy would take into consideration, and give orders, that hereafter there should be no just cause for complaint.

Here Mr. Anson paused, and waited some time for an answer; but nothing being said, represented to the viceroy the case of the ship *Hallingsfield*, which, having been dismasted on the coast of China, had arrived at Canton a few days before. The people on board this vessel had been great sufferers by the fire; the captain had all his goods burnt, and had lost, in the confusion, a chest of four thousand five hundred tael, supposed to be stolen by the Chinese boat-men. Mr. Anson therefore desired that the captain might have the assistance of the government, as it was believed the money could not be recovered without his interposition. To this request the viceroy answered, that in settling the customs for that ships, some abatement should be made, in consideration of her losses.

The commodore having dispatched the business of the East-India company, he entered on his own affairs; acquainted the viceroy, that the season was already set in for returning to Europe, and that he wanted only a licence to ship off his provisions and stores; and when this should be granted him, he would get his necessaries on board, and leave the river of Canton, in order to make the best of his way for England. The viceroy replied, that the licence should be immediately granted, and every thing ordered on board next day. And, finding Mr. Anson had nothing further to desire, he continued the conversation some time longer, acknowledging how much the Chinese

Chinese were obliged to him for his services at the fire, and owning that he had saved the city. Then observing that the Centurion had been long on their coast, he ended his discourse, wishing Mr. Anson a prosperous voyage to Europe. After which, the Commodore, thanking him for his civility and assistance, took his leave.

When he came out of the hall of audience, he was desired to go into an apartment, where an entertainment was provided; but finding the viceroy was not to be present, he declined the invitation, departing in the same manner as at his arrival; being saluted by three guns, which are as many as are ever fired there on any ceremony.

Thus to his great joy, he finished this troublesome affair, which had given him much disquietude. He was highly pleased with procuring a licence for the shipping off his stores and provisions; as it enabled him to return home, with the first of the monsoons, and to prevent all intelligence of his being expected: but he was more attentive to the precedent established on this occasion, by which his majesty's ships of war were exempted from all demands in any of the Chinese ports.

The provisions were begun to be put on board the next day; and, four days after, the commodore embarked for the Centurion. And now the preparations were pursued with such vigilance, and were so soon compleated, that the Centurion and her prize unmoored on the 7th of December, & passed through the Bocca Tigris on the 10th. On this occasion, the Chinese manned the two forts, with as many men as they could contain, most of them armed with pikes and matchlock musquets. They affected to shew themselves to the ships, and were doubtless intended to fill Mr. Anson with high ideas of their military power: for this purpose they were equipped with great parade, having many colours exposed to view; and on the castle there was laid heaps of large stones; and a soldier of unusual bulk, dressed in slightly armour, stalkt about on the parapet, with a battle-ax in his hand, and put on as martial an air as possible, though some of the Centurion's people suspected, that it was composed only of glittering paper.

The commodore with his two ships, on the 12th of December, anchored before the town of Macao; and, whilst he lay there, the merchants of that place finished their purchase of the galeon, for which they refused to give more than 6000 dollars: this was much short of her value; but the impatience of the commodore to get to sea, with which the merchants were well acquainted, prompted them to insist on such terms. Mr. Anson had learnt from the English at Canton, that the war with the Spaniards was still continued; and that probably the French might engage in their assistance, before he could get hence; and

and therefore, knowing no intelligence could come to Europe of the treasure he had on board, till the return of the ships from Canton, he resolved to make all possible expedition, that he might be the first messenger of his own good fortune, and thereby prevent the enemy from forming any projects to intercept him: he therefore accepted of the sum offered for the galeon; and she being delivered to the merchants the 15th of December 1743, the Centurion, that very day got under sail, on her return. On the 3d of January, she anchored at Prince's island, and continued there wooding and watering till the 8th; when she stood for the Cape of Good Hope, where, on the 11th of March she anchored in Table-bay.

The Cape is situated in a temperate climate, and the Dutch inhabitants, who are numerous, and here retain their native industry, have stocked it with great plenty of all sorts of fruits and provisions; most of which, are more delicious in their kind than can be met with elsewhere: by these, and the excellent water which abounds there, this settlement is the best provided of any in the world, for the refreshment of seamen after long voyages. The commodore continued here till the beginning of April, highly delighted with the place, which was not disgraced by a comparison with the vallies of Juan Fernandès, and the lawns of Tinian. During his stay he entered forty new men; and having by the 3d of April 1744, compleated his water and provision, he weighed and put to sea. The 19th of April they saw the island of St. Helena, which they did not touch at, but stood on their way; and arriving in soundings, about the begining of June, they, on the 10th of that month, spoke with an English ship, from whom they received the first intelligence of a war with the French. By the 12th of June they saw the Lizard; and on the 15th, to their infinite joy, they came safe to an anchor at Spithead. But that the perils, which had so often threatened them, might pursue them to the last Mr. Anson learnt, that there was a French fleet of great force cruising in the chops of the channel, which, he found the Centurion had run through, being concealed by a fog. Thus was this expedition finished, which had lasted three years and nine months; in which time, Mr. Anson gave the most satisfactory proofs of his capacity for commanding the naval force of Great Britain; and convinced us, that *Though prudence, intrepidity, and perseverance united, are not exempted from the blows of adverse fortune; yet in a long series of transactions, they usually rise superior to its power, and in the end rarely fail of proving successful.*



James Meriam,

His Book

Grandfather of

R. H. Meriam





